

French planes help airlift Moroccans to Zaire

Morocco has been given the use of 10 French Air Force cargo aircraft to provide an airlift for the 1,500 Moroccan troops now actively aiding the Zaire Army to fight rebel troops and Katangan insurgents advancing in the province of Shaba. Both Morocco and Zaire appealed to France for help with the military airlift.

King Hassan calls in five ambassadors

From Paul Martin
Paris, April 10
France has indirectly joined Morocco's military intervention on the side of the Zaire Government by sending 10 transport aircraft to help ferry Moroccan troops. An announcement by the Elysée Palace said the French military aid followed an urgent plea from both Morocco and Zaire to stem the rebel advance.

The French decision is in line with expressions of concern by President Giscard d'Estaing at the latest turn of events in central Africa. The Zaire situation was a main topic in President Giscard's discussions with Mr Cyrus Vance, the United States Secretary of State, and President Sadat, of Egypt, both of whom visited Paris last week.

The French Air Force cargo aircraft—nine Transall C160 and a DC8—were sent to Rabat on Saturday—24 hours before the presidential announcement in Paris. It confirms the Franco-Moroccan alliance to pursue pro-Western policies in Africa.

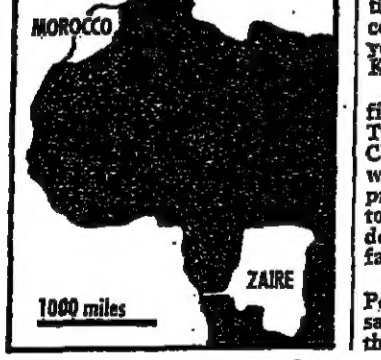
Although official sources maintained that "not one French soldier" would be involved in the venture, it was not clear whether the crews of the transports would be French or Moroccan. Nor was it clear if the aircraft would be carrying troops or just military equipment.

Soon after their arrival in Morocco, the French transports began the airlift between Rabat and Kinshasa. The Moroccan troops will be made up of veterans from the expeditionary force that acquitted itself so well in the Golan Heights in the 1973 Arab-Israeli war and special units from the Moroccan army.

The Elysée statement pointed out that the Government of Zaire had been the "victim of a coup d'état" and that the French President had made the means to transport the airlift with the speed required to face a deteriorating military situation.

Embassy, April 10.—About 1,500 Moroccan troops have arrived in the south-east province of Shaba to help the Zaire army forces repel the Katangan official Azap news agency reported. Western diplomatic sources in Kinshasa confirmed the arrival.

President Mobutu disclosed, meanwhile, that the incursion into Zaire by former Katangan guerrillas had been helped by complicity at the highest levels of the Zaire Army. One



Former Yemeni prime minister and wife die in London triple shooting

By Clive Borrell
Crime Correspondent

A political assassin was being sought by Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad last night after the murder of a former Yemeni prime minister and his wife in London. The victims were al-Qadi Abdullah al-Hajri, aged 63, former prime minister of the Yemen Arab Republic and deputy chief of its Supreme Court; his wife, Fatimah, aged 40; and Mr Abdallah Ali al-Hammami, aged 45, minister plenipotentiary at the republic's London embassy.

Mr Hammami had called on the judge and his wife, who were on a private visit to London, just before noon yesterday. After a half-hour talk in their private suite at the Royal Lancaster Hotel, they prepared to leave for an undisclosed destination in an embassy car.

The two men and Mrs al-Hajri, who was wearing traditional dress, were unremarkable as they walked down Westbourne Street, an area popular with Arab visitors. Their waiting car was only five yards from the hotel.

Their assailant, described by the police as "Middle Eastern-looking" seems to have been waiting on the pavement opposite the hotel, at the junction of Westbourne Street and Sussex Gardens. He crossed the street by the hotel entrance only when the car was about to move, with Mr al-Hajri in the front passenger seat, his wife in the back and Mr al-Hammami driving.

The assailant opened the back nearest door and fired several times with a silenced automatic pistol. Despite the close range, at least one shot missed and shattered the windscreen. The occupants appear to have been taken completely unawares and took no action. The incident lasted less than 15 seconds.

The assassin then ran off down the side of the hotel in the direction of Hyde Park and the open-air exhibition of paintings along its railings. He was last seen turning towards Lancaster Gate Underground station.

Police described the gunman last night as being in his early twenties, of athletic build, and 5ft 8in to 5ft 10in in height. He was wearing dark jeans and a dark three-quarter-length, shapeless overcoat.

One of the first witnesses to be interviewed by police described seeing what he thought was a crumpled coat on the back seat of the car through the open door. It was the body of Mrs al-Hajri.

The visiting couple had not been given specific police protection, nor had they asked for any.

A senior detective said last night: "As yet we know of no motive for these killings, although it is likely that the shootings were motivated by political reasons. The police were convinced that the assassinations and the gunman's escape had been carefully planned."

When the identity of the three victims was discovered, Commander James Nevill, head of the anti-terrorist squad, was recalled from Easter leave to mobilise his team and enlist Special Branch help. Scotland Yard's diplomatic security squad was also asked to increase guard on all "sensitive" Middle Eastern embassies.

The gun used in the assassination was an automatic pistol. The number of rounds fired was not known last night, but two bullets had passed through the car body. The vehicle was examined by forensic experts.

"We have very little to go on so far, and we appeal to anyone who saw the incident or who saw anyone suspicious loitering in the area at that time to come forward," Scotland Yard said.

Politically motivated: The Yemen Arab Republic's ambassador, Mr Mohamed Abdullah al-Eryani, said he believed the attack was politically motivated (The Press Association reports).

"I have no idea who did it. I hope the British security forces will be able to find out," he said.

Mr Hammami left six children, all in the Yemen, and Mr Hammami left six children, all in the Yemen, and Mr Hammami left six children, all in the Yemen.

Continued on page 2, col 1

Bomb kills boy near Belfast IRA ceremony

From Stewart Tisdall
Belfast

A boy, aged 10, was killed in Belfast yesterday when a bomb exploded as thousands of people gathered to watch the republican commemoration of the 1916 Easter Rising. Another boy, aged 14, was seriously injured in the head and shortly afterwards supporters of the two wings of the republican movement clashed.

A few hours after the death of Kevin McManamin, of New Barsley Drive, in the Turf Lodge district, his uncle, Mr John Short, was found shot dead at White Rock near by and another relative, aged 33, was found with gunshot wounds in the leg. The two men had been on their way to the boy's home to tell other relatives of the death.

The bomb, which contained up to 2lb of explosive and shrapnel, exploded on a window sill near a bakery in Beachmount Avenue, a road on the route of an earlier march by the Provisional Sinn Féin and also used by the Republican Clubs, the political wing of the Official IRA, to Milltown cemetery.

The Provisional march had passed, but the second march was about to begin near by. The explosion also injured two men. The Belfast brigade of the Official IRA, which has responsibility, but the Republican Clubs blamed the Provisionals none the less.

When the Provisionals finished their ceremony their supporters, despite warnings from stewards, clashed with the vanguard of the second parade at the cemetery gate. Stones were thrown by youths and then three volleys of shots rang out. During the first ceremony Mr Joseph Stagg, brother of Frank Stagg, who died on hunger strike in Wakefield jail last year, announced what may prove to be a serious confrontation with the Irish Government over 20 IRA hunger strikers from Portlaoise jail in the Republic.

Calling for support for a demonstration, to be held in O'Connell Street, Dublin, next Saturday, he said it had been planned for Portlaoise next Sunday, but the hunger strikers wanted a protest in a more prominent public place.

Detectors in Dublin yesterday were interrogating a Belfast man who was arrested after several fire bombs had exploded in Dublin on Saturday. Twenty devices were found and exploded, damaging shops in the centre of the city and a letter box. The targets of the attack were mainly large department stores.

Photograph, page 2

Heathrow engineers offered inquiry as some flights resume

By Tim Jones
Labour Reporter

The 1,250 maintenance engineers whose unofficial action has severely curtailed British Airways flights from Heathrow airport, London, were urged yesterday to return to normal shift-working and give an undertaking to work normal shifts and pursue their grievances by constitutional means they would be reinstated.

Mr Keith Harris, one of the engineers' leaders, said: "I think we would welcome an independent inquiry, not only into the present situation but into the management's industrial relations as a whole. I think it is the only way to get justice, but our acceptance of it will depend on the manner in which it is set up."

The peace initiative was worked out at a meeting between officers of the National Joint Council for Civil Air Transport and Mr James Mortimer, chairman of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas).

It came as management and supervisory staff with the approval of 16 of the airline's 17 unions, carried out checks which enabled 80 services to operate to European destinations and elsewhere.

Aircraft bound for Valencia and Amsterdam were the first to leave. They were followed by flights to Zurich, Paris, Brussels, Vienna and Munich. The airline said it was operating about 40 per cent of its normal European service.

Leaders of the Heathrow engineers have described the management-union agreement as a "blackleg's charter" and Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers conveners at seven Glasgow factories yesterday hinted that they might support their Heathrow colleagues.

Aid for flights, page 2

Build-up of holiday road jams

Roads in the South yesterday were busier after the quietest Easter holiday Saturday for several years. But on Merseyside, where it was wet and cold, traffic through the two river tunnels was quieter than on a normal Sunday and the resorts of Southport and New Brighton were almost deserted.

In London at one time 35,000 cars an hour were streaming out. Among the busiest roads were the A12 and A127 to Southend and the A23 to Brighton.

In spite of steady rain, the Automobile Association said, 3,000 vehicles an hour had been reported travelling on the M6 to the Lake District.

At Tadcaster, North Yorkshire, there was a three-mile traffic jam on the A64.

But roads in the West Country, the AA reported, were no busier than on a normal Sunday.

At Windsor Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips joined the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh and other members of the Royal Family for the Easter Day service at St George's Chapel.

In London bright sunshine and slightly higher temperatures drew the crowds to the traditional Easter Day parade in Battersea Park.

The People's Daily said that last year the Gang of Four had tried to use the preparations for the ninth national trade union conference in Peking for union movement which they see as weakening Mao and the European Community through their influence in the Labour Party.

Chinese trade unions were organized in the 1950s on the Soviet model—state-controlled political organs and vehicles for worker benefits. They were virtually disbanded during the Cultural Revolution and surfaced again only in preparation for the party congress in 1973. Their role is believed to be still largely political.

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Continued on page 3, col 4

Peking warning on danger of trade unions meddling in politics

Mrs Thatcher says China aims at stability

From David Bonavia
Southcoast April 10

Mrs Margaret Thatcher arrived today in the east China beauty spot of Soochow to continue her week-long tour of the country after talks in Peking yesterday with Chairman Hua Kuo-feng.

She landed at a military airfield on board a British-built Trident belonging to the Chinese national airline, and was taken to visit a particularly prosperous commune before touring a silk embroidery design centre and visiting famous old gardens.

At a press conference in Peking last night Mrs Thatcher said that she thought of the reasons why the Chinese

had invited her was that they saw her as a likely government leader.

Chinese officials accompanying her have a considerable interest in the British political scene and clearly hope that she will win the next election because of her tough stand against Soviet military expansion.

Asked about her impressions of the Chinese, Mrs Thatcher said: "They are aiming at a settled period, a stable period."

By accident or design, the Chinese press has published during Mrs Thatcher's visit a warning about the danger of allowing trade unions to interfere in national politics. The

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Continued on page 3, col 4

Pakistan riots claim 42 lives

demonstrators were shot dead in Pakistan yesterday, bringing the number of people killed over the weekend in the continuing protests against alleged rigging of the general election won by Mr Bhutto's ruling People's Party. The number of injured and arrested is at several hundred by unofficial sources.

The deaths were shot dead in Karachi, in the district of Hyderabad and three in Multan. He died in Saturday's Lahore riots stands 32. After eight hours of rioting sections of a city are desolated.

MPs 'on probation'

Liberal MPs, who are confident of winning concession on the increased petrol duty when a Finance Bill reaches its committee stage, are warned by the Young Liberal president, Peter Hain, that they should consider themselves "on probation" at the start of their Parliamentary pact with the Government.

Communists now legal

British Communist leaders expressed satisfaction at the granting of legal status to their party. The legislation was announced late on Tuesday by the Ministry of the Interior after the Supreme Court had declared itself competent to rule on the question.

Head teachers' warning on lunchtime closures

Head teachers warned the Secretary of State for Education and Science that school closures may have to close at lunchtime because of local authority reductions in the number of meals supervisors. Teachers are refusing to take their place.

Pupil discrimination

A report from the Equal Opportunities Commission is expected to conclude that there was discrimination in favour of boys in the interim arrangements for the selection of pupils at Tameside, Greater Manchester, made after the Conservative council claimed Labour plans for comprehensive education.

Middle East initiative

King Hussein's Washington visit this week and President Assad's almost simultaneous trip to Moscow appear to form part of a new round of Middle East peace discussions between Arab leaders and the superpowers. The talks are being prepared without a publicity fanfare.

Cost of living: An MP's gross salary would be £9,450 if it had increased in line with the retail price index since January, 1972, a parliamentary written answer says.

Salford: Seven black civilians have been massacred by African guerrillas in a Rhodesia valley close to the border with Mozambique.

Rome: The Pope braves chill wind to give his Easter message from St Peter's balcony.

Mr Peres to lead Israel party

From Moshe Brilliant
Tel Aviv, April 10

The Israeli Labour Party this evening selected Mr Shimon Peres, aged 54, as its nominee for Prime Minister in place of Mr Yitzhak Rabin who resigned last week after disclosures that he had violated foreign currency regulations by keeping dollars in a Washington bank.

Mr Peres, Defence Minister in Mr Rabin's outgoing Government, was supposed to be Yigal Allon, the deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, dropped out of the contest after friends convinced him over the weekend that it was his chance.

The advantage lay with Mr Peres because he lost the nomination to Mr Rabin in February by only 41 votes. At the same time Mr Zarmi, the secretary general of the party, objected to Mr Allon an assurance that he would be named two in the party and would be given first choice of portfolio. Mr Allon said he would probably choose defence.

Mr Allon was absent during the vote and entered the hall during Mr Peres' acceptance speech. Three of his diehard supporters voted against Mr Peres and 18 abstained.

Mr Rabin attended the meeting and received a loud ovation as he took his seat in the front row. He did not acknowledge the cheers. Outside the hall, he was also cheered by men carrying posters, reading: "Rabin Come Back," and "Rabin We Need You."

Mr Peres said afterwards there would be no substantial change in policy in his administration.

The choice of Mr Peres holds perils and prospects for the Labour Party in its attempt to retain its 30-year hegemony in the parliamentary elections on May 17.

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HOME NEWS

Meal supervision cuts may force heads to close schools for lunch

From Tim Devlin
Education Correspondent
Eastbourne

The largest organization of head teachers in Britain has warned the Government that schools may have to close at lunchtime in areas where local education authorities are reducing the number of meal supervisors in spending cuts.

The National Association of Head Teachers, which has 15,000 members, is writing to Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to tell her that teachers are refusing to step in voluntarily for the supervisors and it may no longer be possible for head teachers to keep schools open during the midday break.

Mr Philip Bowden, chairman of the association school meals working party, said: "We are giving this warning about what could happen from school midday closures so that everyone can consider the implications in advance."

The heads want the meals service transferred from the education budget to the Department of Health and Social Security.

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said at his union's annual conference at Eastbourne that teachers would stop supervising school meals if they were no longer allowed free lunches for doing so.

They were standing by an agreement made with the Government in 1968.

Cuts in the education service were one of the main themes of the speech by Mr John Grier, the union's president, on Saturday. He told nearly 2,000 delegates that as the price of books

and materials rose, local authorities were cutting down on the money available to buy them.

When they wanted to make improvements they were at the same time making the size of classes larger.

He said that if a teacher ratio of about nine-to-one was right for one comprehensive school, Eton, with 1,200 pupils, it was right for others.

Eton is perfect proof that the large comprehensive is not a perfect school, nor is it a denial of opportunity to the bright. It is also an indicator of what can be achieved given sufficient resources.

Mr Gray criticized recent government statements in favour of sixth-form colleges for children between 16 and 18 instead of comprehensive schools for those between 11 and 18.

There might be strong arguments for developing them in some areas, but if the only argument in their favour was that they were the cheapest means of sixth-form provision, they would erode the possible effectiveness of comprehensive schools, he said.

The conference approved a pay rise under the social contract by which teachers will receive an extra £2.50 to £4 a week, less a small amount to compensate for the increase in the wages bill due to increments.

A move to ban National Front members from the union was rejected by the conference. Instead delegates supported an amendment stating that the union was to be a co-operation with trade unions and the development of an effective multicultural curriculum.

Selection at Tameside 'favoured boys'

By a Staff Reporter

A report due shortly from the Equal Opportunities Commission is expected to conclude that there was potential sex discrimination in the interim arrangements for the selection of pupils at Tameside, Greater Manchester.

Parents had complained that twice as many grammar school places were made available to boys as to girls last year when the newly elected Conservative council overturned Labour plans for comprehensive education.

Last December the council decided to select pupils for two of the five Tameside grammar schools, leaving the arrangements at the other three undisturbed. One of the two was for boys, the other being mixed, an arrangement clearly favouring boys. The commission concluded that if entry for all five had been selective there would have been no discrimination, since there would have been a balance of the sexes.

Having concluded that the interim arrangement was discriminatory, the commission has had to decide whether it could be described as unlawful. The report was handed in by the authors last week, and the full commission will discuss it on April 25, when a delegation from Tameside will also be heard.

The report has been drawn up on the assumption, disputed by Tameside, that if planning is potentially discriminatory there is no need to produce specific victims to prove that it has had a discriminatory effect.

Councils, by implication, must ensure that their strategic planning is not potentially discriminatory. The report also said that there had been discrimination against specific individuals.

The Tameside dispute goes back to last May, when the Conservatives won control of the council in the local elections and decided to implement their undertaking to revert to selective education, a decision subsequently upheld by the Court of Appeal and the House of Lords in the face of objections from the Department of Education and Science.

The allocations for three grammar schools were left intact, but council invited applications for two grammar schools which Labour had planned to turn into sixth-form schools: 99 girls of 195 applicants won places, against 135 of 376 boys.

Mr John Bourn, aged 28, a civil servant, has been demoted after an inquiry into his attack on "scroungers". He will lose £100 a year in pay and three days' holiday.

His colleagues, angered by what they regard as a "grave injustice", are to meet in Birmingham this week. They plan to urge other members of the Civil Servants' Association to take industrial action which could delay social security payments.

Mr Bourn, of Parkstone Crescent, Kingsland, Birmingham, is refusing to move to his new post and intends to appeal against the penalty, which resulted from his protest about the scale of state payments.

He had told newspapers it was impossible to determine if every applicant for social security benefits was genuine. "If there is an element of doubt, we pay out", he said.

After a four-month inquiry, department officials in London have downgraded him and transferred him to regional headquarters in Birmingham, away from contact with the public.

Unions to seek newspaper talks

The TUC Printing Industries Committee has called a week for talks with the management of Beaverbrook Newspapers and Associated Newspapers on the implications of possible closer cooperation between the Daily Express and Daily Mail, and London's two main newspapers (Our Labour Staff writes).

Union leaders believe any deal to halt yearly losses of almost £6m by the evening newspapers and further losses by the Daily Express might involve job rationalisation proposals.

Obituary, page 8

Three people die in coastal dinghy accidents

Three people died in sailing accidents in Scotland and Wales yesterday.

Mrs Anne Blackwell, aged 37, a teacher, of Normanton Drive, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, and Georgina Roberts, aged nine, of Duvagan, Skye, died when a dinghy with four on board overturned near Bannoch Island in Loch Bracadale on the north-west coast of Skye.

Mr David Roberts, aged 42, the girl's father, and her sister, Catherine, aged 11, were recovering last night after being rescued by local boatmen. It is understood that the dinghy capsized when caught by a gust of wind.

An RAF helicopter winched a man and the body of another from the sea after their dinghy capsized half a mile off Rhodol, Holy Island, Anglesey, when a dinghy with four on board overturned near Bannoch Island in Loch Bracadale on the north-west coast of Skye.

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Children being escorted away from the clash of rival IRA organizations in Belfast yesterday, reported on page 1.

More time for servicing helps long-distance flights

By Arthur Reed

Air Correspondent

British Airways airlines have undergone four main types of engineering check under a programme recommended by the Civil Aviation Authority on behalf of the Government.

They range from swift examinations of the engine, in which small faults reported by the flight crew are corrected, to big overhauls every two years, during which the aircraft is virtually taken to pieces and rebuilt. In between there are checks after 72 and 300 flying hours.

In the 72-hour check, which is being done by management and workers not involved in the present dispute, routine servicing is done. Such items as hydraulic fluid levels, oxygen bottles and safety straps are checked, and the aircraft is out of service for a short time only.

In the 300-hour check different parts of each aircraft are serviced in rotation. The work normally takes all night, and for the duration of the dispute will have to wait for a slot in the day shift's schedule.

Because of the intensive nature of the airline's internal United Kingdom and European operation, most maintenance is carried out at night.

Long-distance services do not involve as tight an engineering timetable. Much longer periods during which the aircraft are scheduled to be on the ground are included in the programme, making it far easier for maintenance tasks to be completed during a dispute.

Some engineering work on long-distance airlines is also done at British Airways stations abroad.

That is why British Airways has managed to keep most of its intercontinental flights operating, while up to yesterday the whole of the short-haul network was grounded.

Complaints about an article published in The Sunday Times by Mr Malcolm Crawford, its economics editor, to the effect that the United States Treasury and the International Monetary Fund had agreed on the main terms under which Britain would be offered a \$3,000m loan have been rejected by the Press Council.

The article said that the IMF and United States Treasury had agreed that besides severe restrictions on borrowing, credit and money supply, the main terms of the loan would include a sharp drop in the exchange rate, which should be let down to about \$1.50.

After complaints by Mr Peter Viggers, Conservative MP for Gwent, and Mr William Shepherd, of George Street, London, that publication was irresponsible in view of the critical

state of sterling, Mr Harold Evans, editor of The Sunday Times, asserted that the newspaper had had good reason to suppose the report was accurate, had taken adequate steps to check its accuracy, and defended publication.

The Press Council in its adjudication accepts that the editor and his staff believed the report was true and says that the steps they took to confirm it were reasonable. It supports the long-accepted rule that a newspaper need not reveal its sources.

Although the council was unable to determine the truth of the report, it accepts what the editor and his staff believed the report was true and says that the steps they took to confirm it were reasonable. It supports the long-accepted rule that a newspaper need not reveal its sources.

Mr Crawford had first come to them from someone acting as a consultant to the IMF. Mr Crawford then repeated it to

officials of the IMF, United States Treasury and Federal Reserve Board and to persons in high circles in Britain. It was not denied, and Mr Crawford and Mr Evans therefore believed the information.

The council adds, however, that it would be wise, in cases where publication is likely to have serious consequences, for an expert and attributable statement to be sought from the authority or individual concerned, in this case the IMF and/or the United States Treasury.

The adjudication also says that the report as published may have given a false impression to some readers. It should have been clearer in its headline, sub-titles and at an early point in the article that the devaluation condition was a proposal to be put forward and that it came from an

authoritative but not a binding source.

The council concludes that, although the report contributed significantly to a substantial fall in the value of sterling the next day, the matter was in the editor's discretion. It rejects the complaints of irresponsibility.

Mr Viggers said yesterday that the Chancellor, Mr Healey, had referred to the report as "irresponsible and patently untrue", yet he had refused to participate in the Press Council inquiry. The Sunday Times report and the Chancellor's statement could not both be true.

Mr Viggers added: "It is arguable that the best interests of democracy are not served by private information being given to journalists which is denied to others, including members of parliament."

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Liberals confident of victory on petrol duty

By Our Political Staff

Liberals MPs, who were warned at the weekend by Mr Peter Hain, president of the Young Liberals, that they must regard themselves as being "on probation" at the start of the Liberal-Labour alliance in Parliament, are confident that they will bring a concession from the Government over the increased petrol duty.

At the last moment the MPs decided to abstain rather than vote down the Budget resolution authorising the 5p increase in duty. They pointed out that the same resolution also covered the duty on heavy oils, and they wanted to limit their action to petrol.

They are now exploring with the Government the possibility of removing the increase in duty on petrol during the committee stage of the Finance Bill.

According to the Liberals, there is a good chance that the Government will accept their arguments, and remove or reduce the increase.

The revenue thus lost could be recouped, the Liberals originally suggested, by consolidating the two rates of value-added tax into a single rate of 10 per cent. But the Chancellor is refusing to do that, on the grounds that it would raise the third round of the pay policy even more difficult to negotiate.

He has said that the extra revenue would have to be obtained by extra duties on beer, wine and spirits.

During the Finance Bill committee stage the Liberals also hope to get concessions on tax relief for company profit-sharing schemes, and lower taxes for widows.

At the Young Liberals' annual conference at Weston-super-Mare Mr Hain said: "We have to state clearly to David Steel: We put you and the Liberal MPs on probation." He said that among their demands to the Government priority should be given to reducing unemployment, reversing the Government's attack on civil liberties, and replacing the Official Secrets Act with a Freedom of Information Bill.

Impeachment sought: A resolution seeking the impeachment of Mr Ronald Kirk Murray, QC, the Lord Advocate, over his handling of the Patrick Meehan case was carried unanimously at the conference yesterday (the Press Association reports).

Mr Patrick Meehan, who was convicted of the murder of Mrs Rachel Ross at Arr in 1969, spent nearly seven years in prison before receiving a royal pardon and the offer of £7,500 compensation.

Mr Ian Waddell, who had publicly confessed to the murder, was later prosecuted by the Lord Advocate and acquitted.

The resolution, from Scottish Young Liberals, demands that the Scottish Office inquiry into the circumstances of the Meehan trial should be held in public and should hear evidence from Mr Waddell.

It also urges Mr Steel, the Liberal Party leader, to introduce a Commons motion calling for impeachment.

The conference accepted by an overwhelming majority a motion from Mr Peter Hain that they take "appropriate action" to disrupt the proposed visit by President Amin of Uganda to the Commonwealth conference in Britain in June, if it takes place.

The motion called on the Government and the Commonwealth Secretariat to prevent President Amin's attending. If he does, the motion commits the Young Liberals to join a national campaign against him and to disrupt his visit.

Mr Hain said there was a weekly shuttle service to take goods from the Glasgow airport, to support President Amin's regime. The campaign, he said, should be aimed against that ferry service and at trying to cut trade links between Britain and Uganda.

He suggested that arms might also be sent on the "Stansted ferry". They were investigating that.

Mr Paul Hannon, political vice-chairman, said he did not oppose the conference's opposition to the "oppressive regime" but he was against the proposal to prevent Amin's attendance at the Commonwealth conference. President Amin was being used to discredit other African leaders, and it was too simplistic a view just to ban him, he said.

Mr Hannon said that President Amin has in common with the rest of the world is their love of publicity. I am sure the campaign would mutually benefit both of them.

Last night, Mr Patrick Coleman, aged 24, of Manchester, a railway supervisor, was elected chairman of the National League of Young Liberals. He succeeds Mr Steven Atack.

On Saturday the conference accepted a proposal that the National League of Young Liberals executive should organize and finance a national campaign for the legalization of cannabis.

By a large majority, however, the conference rejected a call that the executive should submit a motion to the next Liberal Assembly calling for the legalization of cannabis.

Complaints about an article published in The Sunday Times by Mr Malcolm Crawford, its economics editor, to the effect that the United States Treasury and the International Monetary Fund had agreed on the main terms under which Britain would be offered a \$3,000m loan have been rejected by the Press Council.

The article said that the IMF and United States Treasury had agreed that besides severe restrictions on borrowing, credit and money supply, the main terms of the loan would include a sharp drop in the exchange rate, which should be let down to about \$1.50.

After complaints by Mr Peter Viggers, Conservative MP for Gwent, and Mr William Shepherd, of George Street, London, that publication was irresponsible in view of the critical

state of sterling, Mr Harold Evans, editor of The Sunday Times, asserted that the newspaper had had good reason to suppose the report was accurate, had taken adequate steps to check its accuracy, and defended publication.

The Press Council in its adjudication accepts that the editor and his staff believed the report was true and says that the steps they took to confirm it were reasonable. It supports the long-accepted rule that a newspaper need not reveal its sources.

Although the council was unable to determine the truth of the report, it accepts what the editor and his staff believed the report was true and says that the steps they took to confirm it were reasonable. It supports the long-accepted rule that a newspaper need not reveal its sources.

Mr Crawford had first come to them from someone acting as a consultant to the IMF. Mr Crawford then repeated it to

officials of the IMF, United States Treasury and Federal Reserve Board and to persons in high circles in Britain. It was not denied, and Mr Crawford and Mr Evans therefore believed the information.

The council adds, however, that it would be wise, in cases where publication is likely to have serious consequences, for an expert and attributable statement to be sought from the authority or individual concerned, in this case the IMF and/or the United States Treasury.

The adjudication also says that the report as published may have given a false impression to some readers. It should have been clearer in its headline, sub-titles and at an early point in the article that the devaluation condition was a proposal to be put forward and that it came from an

authoritative but not a binding source.

The council concludes that, although the report contributed significantly to a substantial fall in the value of sterling the next day, the matter was in the editor's discretion. It rejects the complaints of irresponsibility.

Mr Viggers said yesterday that the Chancellor, Mr Healey, had referred to the report as "irresponsible and patently untrue", yet he had refused to participate in the Press Council inquiry. The Sunday Times report and the Chancellor's statement could not both be true.

Mr Viggers added: "It is arguable that the best interests of democracy are not served by private information being given to journalists which is denied to others, including members of parliament."

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WEST EUROPE AND OVERSEAS

Spanish Communists welcome their party's legal status

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, April 10

The Government has granted legal status to the Spanish Communist Party for the first time since General Franco overthrew the second Spanish Republic 38 years ago.

This was announced late last night in a communiqué issued by the Interior Ministry in Madrid after the Supreme Court had declared itself incompetent to rule on the question.

The decision means that the Communist Party can put up candidates in the coming general election.

When the decision was announced Spaniards were busy celebrating Easter. But later this week the move is expected to provoke a strong reaction from conservatives, whose main coalition is led by Señor Manuel Fraga Iribarne.

The legalization of the Communist Party is expected to pave the way for the immediate return to Spain of Señores Dolores Ibarruri, the octogenarian president of the Spanish Communist Party, known in the Civil War as La Pasionaria.

The Government justified its decision by pointing out that the Supreme Court had not found any valid reason to oppose legal recognition.

The initial reaction among politicians who had been in opposition to General Franco, was favourable. Significantly, this decision came after an announcement last week by the

American State Department, indicating that the Carter Administration did not oppose legal recognition of the Communists, but was wary of the prospect of communist domination of Western European governments.

Professor Ramón Tamames, the economist and a member of the central committee of the Spanish Communist Party, said that the decision was "an important step in the effective democratization of the country."

He went on: "The recognition of the Spanish Communist Party by the Government is a demonstration of political common sense, because it would be foolish and irresponsible to carry on with the pretence of so many years that it does not exist, with the persecution and oppression of a force whose roots are generally accepted as being evident throughout the country."

Señor Armando Lopez Salas, another Communist leader, said: "The legalization of the party will be a factor in the stabilization of political life."

Señor Luis Londoño, who spent more than half his life in prison for his communist activities, said: "We will furnish proof of our democratic sincerity."

Moscow: Señora Ibarruri said here today: "I am ready to leave, my bags are packed." The Spanish Embassy said it was waiting for permission from Madrid to issue a visa—Agence France-Press.

Police clash with crowds of celebrating Basques

From William Chislett
Vitoria, April 10

Thousands of police and civil guards manned road blocks around the Basque country today sealing off the city of Vitoria where demonstrators fought running battles with the police.

The Government had banned the Basques from mass demonstrations in the city to celebrate their national day.

Basque political parties called on the people to ignore the ban, to gather in Vitoria and to demonstrate in favour of a total amnesty and political freedom.

The meeting was banned because the Government feared that extremist groups were out to wreck it.

The old centre of Vitoria was busy with smoke bombs fired by the police at groups of demonstrators, who were mainly young and numbered several thousand.

They chanted at a time: "The police twisted the streets, Easter high masses were celebrated at the time. Some people went to church with thickened lips, calling for Basque autonomy and for amnesty. They then demonstrated after the services."

When an attempt was made to place a banner in the Plaza de la Virgen Blanca, the police beatified their action. The balcony of an old house caught fire, some of them made up of cars parked in the streets.

Demonstrators were let into flats by residents to take refuge. The Basque flag was waved during the demonstration, as well as a Valencian flag brought by the President of the Basque Government from Valencia for the occasion.

The police had begun on Friday night to turn people back.

Warrant out in law chief murder

From Our Correspondent
Berlin, April 10

An arrest warrant was issued yesterday for Herr Günter Sonnenberg, suspected of having rented the motorcycle from which Herr Siegfried Buback, the Federal Chief Public Prosecutor, and his driver, were shot dead on Thursday in Karlsruhe.

The Federal Criminal Police in Wiesbaden are also investigating whether the suspected members of the Baader-Meinhof terrorist gang who are on the way in any way connected.

Stockholm, April 10.—Swedish security police have issued a national alert for three men sought in connection with the murder of Herr Siegfried Buback.

Stockholm police have received reports that three men travelling rough were seen in the province of Skåne. The three were named as Herr Christen, Herr Knut, and Herr Knut.

More charges in the Broglie case

Paris, April 10.—Two more people have been charged in connection with the Christmas Eve murder of Jean de Broglie, former French Government Minister.

They are M. Alain Benoit, 47, who is charged with driving a witness and trying evidence and Dr. Y. Azerad, a Paris cardiologist, charged with destroying evidence.—Reuter.

'ope braves chill wind in St Peter's Square

From Our Correspondent
Rome, April 10

The Pope, looking better than recent days, today gave his message and blessing, in St. Peter's Square and the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica.

Death is no longer the limit of existence," he said. "Do the values of all present things therefore change?" The sage of Easter could be of thinking about life.

Peter's Square had been briefly in Rome on a red and white banner on the facade of St. Peter's and the plumes and uniforms of soldiers and officers lined up at the front of the crowd.

Hours chanted in English, French and German as the Pope celebrated the High Mass on the steps of the Basilica.

The Pope, who will be 80 in September and who had a bad attack of influenza last month, had looked tired and spoke with a hoarse voice during his exhortation of Holy Week ceremonies.

His arthritis had made walking difficult, and he was carried in and out of the Maundy Thursday ceremony at St. John Lateran Basilica in his gestatorial chair, an unusual occurrence for such an occasion.

But today he looked more fit and rested and spoke with a firm, though somewhat slow, voice as he delivered his Easter message.

The Pope said he believed that young people were particularly predisposed to understand and welcome the meaning of Easter.

Little time left for arms accord, US believes

From Fred Emery
Washington, April 10

The Carter Administration does not have the impression that Mr. Brezhnev, the Soviet leader, is "a sick man", but it believes that as he is aging "at 70, there is an urgent need for a new nuclear arms reduction agreement to be completed before there is a change in the Kremlin leadership."

This was stated here today in a television interview by Mr. Paul Warnke, the Administration's chief arms negotiator who was one of the American delegation rebuffed in Moscow.

Mr. Warnke said he was sure Mr. Carter would be anxious to meet Mr. Brezhnev if it seemed likely that was the last chance of preventing a resumption of the arms race.

Several American observers in Moscow reported their shock over Mr. Brezhnev's bloated speech and hurried speech, and there have been suggestions in American newspapers that this resulted from cancer treatment drugs.

Mr. Warnke emphasized that Administration's hopes for progress in the strategic arms limitation talks were still just hopes. He admitted that the Americans still had not received any counter proposals from the Soviet Union to the American position advanced in Moscow.

He reiterated Mr. Carter's willingness to consider Soviet objections that the American proposals for missile reductions and a halt on missile development were "inequitable."

Mr. Warnke confirmed recent intelligence assessments that the Soviet Union is ready to introduce about 15 new weapons systems, but he recalled that the United States had its new weapons, too.

Uganda minister asks to stay longer in Britain

By Our Diplomatic Staff
Mr. Godfrey Lule, the Ugandan Minister of Justice, who is visiting Britain, has applied to stay longer. He has asked for permission to extend his stay and this is being considered.

A Home Office spokesman said yesterday: "Mr. Lule was quoted by the Sunday Telegraph as saying he wanted to stay longer 'simply because of my health'."

He had his family in Uganda. Mr. Lule was one of three Ugandan delegates who recently gave evidence to the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva over allegations of repression by President Amin's regime.

Palace which referred to the "happy coincidence" of the jubilee celebrations and the two monarchs will take part in a special ceremony at Windsor. Jordanian celebrations, however, have not been on the British scale because of the death of Queen Alia in a helicopter crash in February. There are more photographs of the dead Queen on the streets of Amman—her picture surrounded by a black border—than there are jubilee banners.

President Assad's trip to Moscow is also likely to involve domestic matters as much as international.

Although the Syrian leader will discuss the Palestinian question with the possibility of a future Palestinian state, he is also likely to raise the question of Russian arms supplies. Since Syrian troops entered Lebanon last June and fought the Palestinian guerrillas, the Army has been starved of some spare parts for its largely Soviet-made equipment.

President Assad may feel that his new support for the Palestinians—dramatized by the Syrian support for the Palestinians in southern Lebanon—warrants a more helpful attitude from his Russian arms suppliers.

Mr. Assad, who is reported to be concerned at the arrival of Soviet arms in Iraq where a rival wing of the Baath Party openly seeks the ousting of the Assad regime, called in Damascus last night with Mr. Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), who has just returned from Moscow.

Meanwhile in Amman, talks are to be resumed soon between Jordanian Government officials and Palestinian leaders. A Palestinian delegation has already visited Amman to discuss with King Hussein the type of links which might be set up between Jordanians and Palestinians if a Palestinian state was set up on the West Bank.

The second meeting, for which no date has yet been agreed, comes about as a result of the personal talks held in Cairo between the King and Mr. Arafat last month.

A quiet service group of Palestinians— from the occupied West Bank town of Hebron—visited Amman this weekend to appeal for funds.

Hebron is one of five towns outside Jerusalem to have refused Israeli development loans and an official delegation led by Mr. Fahd al-Akrawi, the mayor, will travel to the Gulf states this week to appeal for money. Hundreds of Palestinians cross the Jordan river between the Jordanian and Israeli front lines every weekday and although Jordan no longer includes the West Bank in its economic plans, contacts with the local Palestinian authorities have been maintained.

The mayor of Gaza, who visits Jordan almost once a month, is also in Amman seeking funds and, like his opposite number in Hebron, will journey to the Gulf states later this week in search of aid.

Jerusalem, April 10.—A record number of pilgrims from many parts of the world thronged the Old City of Jerusalem in brilliant sunshine. Groups of Indian pilgrims in vivid saris strolled through the ancient cobbled streets alongside black-robed nuns and priests from Africa and South America. Israeli authorities announced on Friday that more than 100,000 visitors had arrived for the holiday week.

High Mass was celebrated in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre which, according to tradition, was Christ's burial place. The hour-long service was conducted by Monsignor Giuseppe Giacomo Beltrudi, the Latin Patriarch, who led a procession to the rock on which the body of Jesus is traditionally believed to have been anointed.—Reuter.



Mrs Thatcher meets Chairman Hua Kuo-peng in Peking.

Tory leader visits garden of futility

Continued from page 1

their own purpose, while at the same time questioning the role of the unions, and suggesting that they should be seen as a weapon in the political battle with the pragmatists who now rule China.

During the two hours of talks with Chairman Hua, the Conservative Party leader has met Mr. Li Hsien-nien, the senior Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Huang Hua, the Foreign Minister, and Mr. Li Chang, the Minister of Education.

In a speech at a farewell banquet last night, she laid special emphasis on the importance of future Anglo-Chinese trade.

Asked whether she agreed with the Chinese view that war between the West and the Soviet Union was virtually inevitable, she said that the leaders in Peking seemed to think it much more inevitable than I do. She reiterated her view that peace could be maintained only through strength.

During the visit Mrs Thatcher has seemed rather tense and unsure of herself and some of the questions she was asked today suggested that she had been inadequately briefed before leaving for China. For instance, she appeared never to have heard of "barefoot doctors". However her hosts seemed anxious to make her feel at home.

This evening Mrs Thatcher toured a famous Soochow garden built in the sixteenth century by a disillusioned courier and named "The Garden of the Futility of Politics". No insinuation was thought to be intended by her hosts.

Mrs Thatcher who is accompanied by her daughter and two aides, leaves tomorrow for Hangchow.

Peking, April 10.—Mr. Chip Carter, the President's son, arrived in Peking last night carrying a message of good will from his father.

President Dui Daddah of Mauritania arrived in Kwangchow and Mrs Shirley Temple Black, the former actress and former head of protocol at the American State Department, arrived in Peking yesterday.

New China news agency said Secretary and Agence France-Press.

Sri Lanka leftist parties unite in a new group

From Our Correspondent
Colombo, April 10

The Trotskyist Sama Samaja (Equal Society) Party, the Pro-Moscow Communist Party and the People's Democratic Party formed by six MPs who signed this year from the Freedom Party of Mr. Bandaranaike, the Prime Minister, have announced the formation of a new Socialist Front.

It includes 29 MPs and five former ministers of Mrs. Bandaranaike's United Front Government. Three Trotskyist ministers were dismissed in September, 1974 after disputes between the Trotskyist Party and the Freedom Party.

The Communist Party which was represented in the Cabinet by Mr. Pieter Keuneman, as Minister of Housing and Construction, and the People's Democratic Party headed by Mr. T. B. Subasinghe, the former Minister of Industries, left Mrs. Bandaranaike's Government in February this year in protest against measures adopted to quell widespread strikes in January.

With the formation of the Socialist Front, the next election due later this year will be contested by three main groups: the right-wing United National Party led by Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, the centrist Freedom Party, and the left-wing Socialist Front which is likely to be led by Dr. N. M. Perera, the Trotskyist leader.

Prisoners of conscience

Mr. Liu Chen-sung was arrested in Taiwan about 1950 for suspected pro-communist activities and has been detained ever since in Green Island New Life Camp.

His detention came during a wave of arrests of suspected communist sympathizers by the Nationalist (Kuomintang) government after its defeat by the Communists on the mainland and retreat to Taiwan.

Apparently, most of those arrested were suspected of contact with the now-defunct Taiwan Communist Party during the Japanese occupation.

It is most probable that Mr. Liu was arrested under the Statute for the Punishment of Rebellion, under which most political prisoners are held in Taiwan. His sentence is unknown, and it is also not known whether it was reduced after the commutation of sentences announced in 1975 by Mr. Chiang Ching-kuo, the Prime Minister, in memory of his late father, President Chiang Kai-shek.

Mr. Liu was arrested when he was about 20 years old and has now spent some 27 years on Green Island, which is off the south-east coast of Taiwan and is mainly used for prisoners serving long-term or life sentences.

Green Island's only inhabitants are a military garrison and the prisoners, now estimated to total more than 100. Despite the lack of any evidence against Mr. Liu of violent activities he is apparently still detained.

Ethiopian leader killed by bandits

Addis Ababa, April 10.—A leading member of Ethiopia's ruling military council, the Dergue, Second Lieutenant Negusie Negassa, aged 28, has died after being attacked by unknown bandits, it was announced today.

He was responsible for the Paltirba in charge of spreading Marxist ideology in Ethiopia.—Reuter.

Dr David Owen, the Foreign Secretary, left Heathrow airport for Dar es Salaam last night for his week's tour of southern Africa.

From Dassa Trevisan
Zagreb, April 10

The trial of eight Yugoslav air traffic controllers charged with causing last September's mid-air collision between a British Airways Trident and a Yugoslav DC9 in which 176 people died begins in Zagreb tomorrow.

The high-altitude collision, the world's worst, between the Trident, overflying Yugoslavia to Istanbul, and the DC9, climbing from Zagreb airport occurred in airspace monitored by the Zagreb controllers. They face a maximum of 20 years in prison.

The official Yugoslav accident report, published earlier,

alleges that safety rules were ignored in the Zagreb control centre, and that slack discipline and carelessness led to the collision.

Gradimir Tasic, the first defendant, is charged with failing to apply prescribed regulations for keeping the aircraft on separate courses; for failing to recognize the threat of collision and failing to take precise measures to prevent the crash.

Asst. Delic, head of Zagreb flight control, and Milan Munjas, regional flight controller, are charged with negligence and failure to ensure that their subordinates carried out standard procedures.

The long indictment charges control tower staff with slack discipline; carelessness; arriving late for work; leaving their posts before replacements took over; failing to pass on essential information and failing to help Mr. Tasic when he was overburdened.

The accident report alleged that Mr. Tasic was attempting to cancel a single-engine aircraft that was still taxiing down the runway and "will report when clear" was received.

That was the last message recorded from either airliner. It remains only a theory that the KLM crew did not receive the tower's transmission because it was blocked out by one or more airliners at Tenerife simultaneously using the same frequency.

Controllers go on trial over air disaster

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Zagreb, April 10

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The high-altitude collision, the world's worst, between the Trident, overflying Yugoslavia to Istanbul, and the DC9, climbing from Zagreb airport occurred in airspace monitored by the Zagreb controllers. They face a maximum of 20 years in prison.

The official Yugoslav accident report, published earlier,

alleges that safety rules were ignored in the Zagreb control centre, and that slack discipline and carelessness led to the collision.

Gradimir Tasic, the first defendant, is charged with failing to apply prescribed regulations for keeping the aircraft on separate courses; for failing to recognize the threat of collision and failing to take precise measures to prevent the crash.

Asst. Delic, head of Zagreb flight control, and Milan Munjas, regional flight controller, are charged with negligence and failure to ensure that their subordinates carried out standard procedures.

The long indictment charges control tower staff with slack discipline; carelessness; arriving late for work; leaving their posts before replacements took over; failing to pass on essential information and failing to help Mr. Tasic when he was overburdened.

The accident report alleged that Mr. Tasic was attempting to cancel a single-engine aircraft that was still taxiing down the runway and "will report when clear" was received.

That was the last message recorded from either airliner. It remains only a theory that the KLM crew did not receive the tower's transmission because it was blocked out by one or more airliners at Tenerife simultaneously using the same frequency.

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A brush with Basil, or a tail of romance and adventure



Basil Brush talks to Philippa Toomey.

Superstars should be approached with caution and due reverence. Basil Brush, superstar of screen and theatre, is surprisingly unassuming. No entourage, no Rolls-Royce, no kind lady from Rogers and Cowan, just Ivan Owen, who is his manager, chauffeur, roddie, and rascal d'ère. "I was born at a very young age," Mr Brush said reflectively, adding that he had been an unsettled child. The family was chased all over the countryside ("sometimes by the nicest people—beautiful young ladies on horseback") and the child decided that one day he would beat the unseatable in pursuit of the game and become pretty un-speakable himself.

In this, as we all know, he has succeeded brilliantly. Show business, after all, has always been the way up the social ladder for the underprivileged. "I was very clever at school—I always came top. I wasn't ever any good at sports, though. I don't think the sports master liked me very much. He used to enter me for some very strange events—like catching the javelin and heading the shot. Agony, absolute agony it was. I wasn't any good at shadow boxing either—my shadow kept hitting back. I was the only kid in the school with a cauliflower nose."

It was, as one would have expected of an establishment that took the extensive Brush family, a very comprehensive school. After a slight contretemps over his attempt to join the school pack of Brownies (on the excuse that he was a cub already) he left school and the family got tired of being chased around and moved to the city. "There's a lot of us about," said Mr Brush, counting up the numbers of his relatives spotted living comfortably in the suburbs.

After that there is a certain amount of mystery in his career. "I became interested in show business," he says, "and at a cocktail party I was introduced to David Nixon. He was looking for a likely sort of chap for his show, so I appeared on *The Nixon Line* in 1968 and when I had finished Mr David's rires, Mr Bill Cotton of the BBC invited me up to his office to have a Pokey Pola and said, how would you like a series of your own? I said I'd be delighted. Posh, you know." Now he is in his tenth season with the BBC, and is much in demand for guest appearances on other shows. Would he say that his progress has been

meteoric, oh, yes indeed. Sends shivers up me brush. "One of the highlights of my career was the Palladium, of course. I got a lovely notice from Harold Hobson. He said 'Received with unalloyed delight'. I always keep my notices. I think I am an egotist, but life has been very hard and one appreciates the nice things that happen." He has also appeared before royalty—taking good care to keep ahead of Princess Anne and Prince Charles. ("I got on very well with the corgis.")

He goes to the theatre often. "I love the theatre. I had a call the other day from a man called Peter Hall (I think that's what his name was) but I just had to turn him down. About a play called *Volpone*. I believe. He did ask me to look in, but I told him I'd like to meet this Mr Shakespeare—you have to meet the gag-writer first in showbusiness, you know. Well, he sort of coughed into the phone and vanished. What could I have said? There's a Mr Ben Jonson, too—I haven't heard from him, either."

And now Paul Scofield is going to play the part. "Do you think he will mind knowing he's second choice?" said Basil, anxious to spare the feelings of a less widely known figure in the theatrical profession. "Perhaps I should invite him on the show..." Why not? Mr Paul once appeared as the lead in a musical in his heart-throb days. "I did play Juliet once—didn't get many laughs—I do feel I was miscast. But then there really wasn't a good laugh in the whole show."

As the fans already know, Mr Brush is part of a large, close family. "One of my sisters is in show business, too. She used to work for a magician who used to saw her in half, every day for years and years. She's given it up."

Where does she live now? "London and Manchester."

There are moments when one feels for Roy North and his predecessor as Basil's friend, Derek Fowlds.

Basil Brush is one of those superstars who appears to have no life of his own, once off stage. He has a country retreat somewhere near Guildford with an ex-directory telephone number he has to keep changing as soon as the fans find out. They keep ringing up and laughing.

Does he have a—er—vixen and cubs? What happened to Maria Visen, his girlfriend during *The Nixon Line*? Cast aside like a worn out glove? "Cer-

tainly not! Poor Maria—I'm afraid she just faded out of the picture." He lives in a basement in Kennington (sharing with Roy North) with a landlady, Mrs Brown ("Joe Bugner in bloomers"). Then there's Cousin Cyril Brush, who is very close. A quiet chat with Mrs Brown (a nice motherly woman who fears that poor Mr Roy doesn't eat enough) reveals the fact that Cyril is older (Basil admits to being 11), tougher, described as a turf accountant ("Bookie's runner, he used to be," says Mrs Brown) and has the family laugh, as do they all—the return of a spectral Uncle Bertie from the great beyond demonstrated that the HA! HA! HA! that has split a million eardrums is something you can take with you. Cousin Cyril could be a bad influence—the Pokey Pola parties that go on after the show produce a number of empty bottles that worry Mrs Brown—whatever will the dullest think?

Efforts to trace Mr Brush's parents failed. "The Mater and Father were rather disapproving when I expressed a wish to go into showbusiness," said Mr Brush. "They prefer not to be mentioned." I tracked them down to the Home Counties. Letters, telephone calls, telegrams went unanswered and unacknowledged. They had gone to ground. While journalists are, as a rule, encouraged by their editors to do their own digging, I felt that no one had ever envisaged actually using a spade. Imagining amazing scenes with the Press Council, I gave up. Definitely a fox pax.

I now does it feel to be considered a cult, a legend in your lifetime, an institution? "It's terribly kind of people to say so. I get asked this so often that I always say that I won't do anybody any harm and I won't do anybody any good, either. BOOM! BOOM!" he roars, digging me painfully in the ribs with an extremely sharp nose. "HA! HA! HA!"

If there is one cloud in his sky, it is the thought that his hit song 'I've got tears in my eyes', a plaintive and romantic ballad (the second line runs "through lying on my back and crying over you") is now not likely to feature in the Eurovision Song Contest. There is possibly another cloud he hasn't noticed yet—small, green, frog-shaped, called Kermit.

But Basil will be back on the screen later in the year. He's got the world by the brush, he's the Twentieth Century Fox.

Philippa Toomey

The last round in the fight to save Grand Central

A new round is to be fought this month in the long struggle over Grand Central Station, one of the main landmarks of New York. The Court of Appeals, the highest court in New York State, is to begin hearings in Albany on the much-criticized plan to transform the whole look of the station by building a 59-storey office tower on top of it.

The station itself will not be demolished if the plan is approved, and its interior, at least, will remain intact. But as seen from outside, the station will be completely dwarfed by the new skyscraper, and its ornate facade, built between 1903 and 1913 in the style of the Ecole des Beaux Arts, will largely vanish.

There has been opposition to the plan ever since it was first put forward, in slightly different form, in 1968. Since then, it has been almost continuously in the courts, with both its supporters and its opponents winning different rounds. The opponents are now apprehensive about how the Court of Appeals will rule, and are doing all they can to attract public support.

At a public conference in February, Mr Frederic Papert, the president of the Municipal Art Society, said that Grand Central was "the most beautiful railroad station in the world and one of the greatest buildings left standing in America". It was also "the sentimental heart of the city" and it was vital that its landmark status should be preserved.

He was backed by Mrs. Jacqueline Onassis, who has lent her name to the cause of saving Grand Central. "Grand Central station stands as a

universal symbol between New York City's past and present," she said. "It has held its own for 64 years. It would be a tragedy to let it be desecrated now."

Grand Central is undoubtedly an integral part of the New York scene, and in the past had much to do with the way the city developed. The first station was built on the site in 1897 by Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt, the railway tycoon. The present building has been widely praised as an outstanding piece of architecture, which solved the problems of handling large numbers of passengers at a time when railway travel was at its peak.

For years, its southern facade, with the figures of Mercury, representing "The Glory of Commerce", Hercules for "Mental Energy", and Minerva for "Meat Energy", was an imposing sight from Park Avenue. Inside was the great elliptical vault, 125ft high at its apex and painted with the constellations, which covered the main concourse.

Much has been said, however, in recent years. The station's facade is now overshadowed by the Pan American building, completed in 1962, which towers behind it. The Penn Central Transportation Company, which owns Grand Central, has gone into bankruptcy and has made an arrangement with Mr Morris Seady, the British developer, for the construction of the office tower above it.

The new building has been designed by Mr Marcel Breuer, a well-known architect, and has not drawn any criticism for itself. The objections, which are made by the Committee to

Save Grand Central and a long list of architectural and civic associations, are that it is "barbaric" to build a skyscraper on top of a building of the quality of Grand Central.

In reply, Penn Central maintains that Grand Central is its property, and that it has the right to do whatever it thinks fit with its own property. They have undertaken not only to maintain the station building under the new tower, but to restore the whole concourse area, and this, they consider, is enough.

Much of the legal argument has turned on the designation of Grand Central as a landmark, which protects it from alteration. Penn Central and Mr Seady have been twice before the New York Landmarks Commission, once with a design in which the facade of the station would remain visible under the skyscraper, and once with a revised scheme in which the facade would be almost entirely concealed, to avoid incongruity, and each time permission has been refused.

They then went to the Supreme Court of New York State with an application for the removal of the landmark designation, and their application was granted in 1975. But this decision was reversed by the court's appellate division the same year.

The case has now reached the Court of Appeals, where briefs have been filed by the Committee to Save Grand Central and the City of New York opposing the plan to build the office tower. Hearings are due to begin in Albany on April 27.

Peter Strafford

Secretarial and Non-secretarial Appointments

NON-SECRETARIAL

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Tim Devlin, our Education Correspondent, sums up the 'Great Debate'

At last education is coming out of the classroom and into society

Officials at the Department of Education and Science are probably sweating out this Easter drafting a Green Paper for Mrs Williams, the Secretary of State, resulting from the "Great Debate" launched by the Prime Minister last October.

Eight one-day regional conferences, each attended by about 200 educationists, parents and industrialists, were held by the department in February and March. Between 350 and 400 people spoke on all aspects of the education service.

Since the conferences are estimated to have cost the taxpayer £13,050 (excluding the cost of working hours lost by up to 2,000 often highly-paid people), it is worth examining what they produced.

I share the distinction with only one other person—Mr John Nisbet, an assistant secretary at the DES—of having attended them all. I was seldom bored, and do not share the view expressed widely in public that they were a complete write-off.

The first topic on the agenda was whether there could be a common core of basic subjects to be taught in all schools. It seemed pretty obvious to begin with that English and Mathematics were prime candidates, to which one could add a science and perhaps a modern language.

Once the educationists got hold of the idea it was soon clear that no consensus could emerge. Some found subjects far too simplistic and argued that the core should define subject areas. This argument was best put by the chief education officer for Cwylwy, who demanded: "linguistic development which should include study of the Welsh language; aesthetic development including the study of Welsh culture and physical development including Welsh rugby."

Some of the few schoolchildren there argued for compulsory careers education, while the chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission, Mrs Betty Lockwood, argued that boys ought to study home management and consumer affairs. A headmaster from York suggested good old-fashioned Civics, and a clergyman from Birmingham fashioned "Veneracy" as a compulsory subject which sounded interesting until he explained it was "respect for others."

This led a representative from the National Union of

Teachers, which dislikes the idea of anyone else defining what should be taught in schools, saying with some justification that at this rate the core would soon become a "damn great apple". Professor Bernard Crick of Birkbeck College, London, said that the core should be a tight one, and that others should be taught in the 11 plus as a goal for primary school pupils; a remark which might have excited Dr Rhodes Boyson, junior Shadow spokesman on education, with the conclusion that this was one of the main points to emerge.

Mr Clive Brooks, a Welsh headmaster, summed up the discussion with the words: "There seems to have been no burning enthusiasm for a common core curriculum."

There was even less enthusiasm for another of the Department's bright ideas—a return to the old School Certificate alongside a single-subject examination. It was unanimously opposed as a disastrous and retrogressive proposal.

There was more sympathy (but not quite so much as

Shirley Williams and fellow ministers later made out) for the idea that some uniformity of schooling was essential because of the growing number of children moving house. I counted seven or eight people who voiced this concern, slightly more than the number who rather wistfully looked towards some examination like the 11 plus as a goal for primary school pupils; a remark which might have excited Dr Rhodes Boyson, junior Shadow spokesman on education, with the conclusion that this was one of the main points to emerge.

The suggestion that methods of teaching mathematics might be "synthesized" seemed unusual until I learned that it had been achieved in the Irish Republic, but with what success, I do not know. Foreign comparisons were fairly scarce during the discussions—there were about a dozen—and many splendid isolationists, including Mr Oakes, Minister of State at the DES, assumed erroneously that every grade of schoolchild on the Continent was doing the same lesson at the same time.

Some speakers complained of having to fly far too much on guesswork in the education service. One suggested that market research should be carried out on those who left school four or five years ago. If the DES was prepared to accept this suggestion, officials need only move across and whisper a word into the ears of their colleagues at the Department of the Environment. This department is so far reluctant to finance a study by the National Children's Bureau of the 16,000 young people born in

1958. This useful research programme may therefore be lost to the nation.

The session on teacher training resulted in almost complete uniformity. Much more money for a national programme of in-service training; longer initial training courses with more emphasis on practical skills—particularly those of controlling children in the classroom; more help for teachers in their first year of teaching; and basic qualifications for all teachers to include at least a level of Mathematics and English. Most speakers also agreed that teaching training is where you should start if you wanted to improve standards of performance in schools.

But how low are standards? The debate, predictably, threw little light on to whether standards were worse today than 10 years ago. But the session on work and industry prompted plenty of industrialists to give examples of why they are not good enough.

The industrialists proved the point at the Welsh conference staged at Cardiff. Here

Mr Peter Allen, chairman of the Welsh Confederation of British Industry, referred to an unpublished report which showed a dramatic increase in the number of applicants for craft apprenticeships who failed basic literacy and numeracy tests between 1966 and 1974.

The stock explanation was provided by Mr Fred Adams, director of education for South Glamorgan, that the potential craft apprentices of 1966 were now staying on at school to go into higher education.

Mr Allen replied that it did not really matter why a poorer calibre of recruit was going into industry. What mattered was that this recruit was having to maintain and service plants in competition with the Japanese and other international competitors who had not had such a decline in the quality of their applicants. Sir Donald Barron, chairman of Rovers, delivered a mild-toned but pointed warning to the educationists to give examples of why they are not good enough.

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The architects of a post-war years, and in particular, the planners and developers of the cities and towns, have a lot to answer for. Not only did they give us the monstrous tower blocks, the hideous office structures, the vast council estates which in the main are soulless cultural deserts, but they were also responsible for tearing the guts out of many of our major cities.

Despite a degree of altruism from some of them, money and greed, not beauty and good design, were the gods they worshipped. The effects of their handiwork are still with us, and coupled with a decline of dock areas in some seaports, they have thrown up problems which will require a mammoth effort to surmount.

The destruction of our inner cities was relatively easy. The rebuilding, regeneration and rehabilitation are not so simple, and a visit to a city like Liverpool will clearly show scars, or rather open wounds, throughout the inner areas. A French communist journalist on a recent visit to Liverpool had something when he said that Liverpool looked like Belfast without the bombs. What a terrible indictment that is.

The "Great Debate" then has so far produced no consensus on the curriculum except that it should not be imposed on schools by a central government. It has produced no agreement on whether schoolchildren should have to do national standardized tests. It has produced unanimity that the way ahead lies in better service and initial teacher training and in a determined effort to get rid of incompetent teachers. It has produced no solution to the gap between teachers and industry, but it has provided a bridge. Through the conferences there ran a strong undercurrent: industry must be more accountable to society.

The "debate" in symbolic terms has begun a partnership. For the first time in English educational history representatives from parent organizations, employers, trade unions, teachers and industry have discussed a common educational system on an equal footing with the massive and vocal education industry. It is a recognition of equal partnership which will now never be lost, and for that alone the £13,050 spent on the conferences was money well spent.

The plan estimated that, between 1965 and 1970, some seven million square feet of floorspace would be demolished in central Liverpool, and that this would affect some 28,000 workers, mainly in warehousing, industry and offices. It was admitted that the needs of the displaced firms could not readily be assessed, and the best that could be done would be to make as accurate an estimate as possible and to review the situation continuously.

But in the event, relocation has not been a success. Small businesses and jobs have been lost and this has had a very bad effect on job opportunities, particularly in an area of high unemployment.

Four ways of dealing with the problem were suggested. First, that some of the displaced businesses would solve the problem themselves. Second, the local authority could purchase properties and lease them to displaced firms. Third, new premises could be built either by the council or by private developers. Fourth, the council could buy suitable land for firms that were prepared and financially able to build for themselves.

The Liverpool plan did, rightly say, the rate at which it was being implemented. The plan is not wholly dependent upon local initiatives and the council should seek assurances from the Government that it will speed up its decisions and improve the machinery of planning.

It further stated that large-scale planning is essentially a partnership between local and central government and it is vital for the central government to play its part.

It all looked so good. The Sixties was a time for progress,

for looking ahead. We had the Wilson "technological revolution", the swinging London scene, and the Beatles. Today, the sad reality is that the technological revolution has created problems which we either failed to understand, or blindly refused to see. The excitement of the period has turned almost to despair, with the consumption and extension of a general gloom, racial tensions, a decay of the wholesome disillusionment. There are more plans and reports all suggesting various solutions to the problems of the inner cities. Unfortunately, they remain largely inoperative, leaving further to the discontent and disillusionment of the people.

I recently received a letter from the Afro-Asian/Caribbean Standing Committee of Merseyside which said, "Inner Area Study Reports have been published. Reading the statistics of woe and misery, unemployment, poor housing, precarious race relations, etc., what? There have been many other reports of the same kind. A serious consideration has been given to the many recommendations in these reports."

That cry from the heart must not go unheeded. The announcement by Denis Healey that the £10m is to be made available for the study of inner cities is not enough. The same last Wednesday by Peter Shore that other monies would be available for the construction industry is also very welcome. However, more, much more, is needed.

In February this year, the Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle and Sheffield local authorities submitted a memorandum to James Callaghan, based upon Peter Shore's study in Manchester on September 1976. The memorandum said: "Twenty-first century civilization has been based upon cities... cities serve and sustain the whole region around them in cultural, social and economic terms. The cities are the large extent does our society. That is the urgency of tackling the problem."

The problems listed in the memorandum common to most inner cities were:

● Social and educational deprivation of households (including loss of self-confidence).

● Substantial outward migration, unbalanced population structure and numbers of overseas immigrants.

● Substantial job loss, high unemployment, a large proportion of semi-skilled and manual workers and inappropriate employment structure.

● Housing stress and high population densities.

● Deficiencies in local open space and other environmental conditions including traffic conditions.

(Liverpool, alas, has many open spaces because of widespread unemployment. What is required there is urgent redevelopment and resettlement of the land.)

We need an entirely new approach to the problem of inner cities. It is very pleasant to see that the Government has accepted the concept of partnership between itself and the local authorities of Liverpool, Birmingham, Manchester/Salford and Leeds. Nevertheless, I would hope this partnership concept will lead to new inner city agencies. These could be rather like the New Town Development Agencies and could be part local authority and part private.

The government departments concerned with the problems must be coordinated so that resources are readily available for job creation, development of small businesses, the key to industrial regeneration in the inner cities.

The problems are under examination. The Inner Area Study published by the Department of the Environment clearly reveals what is needed. We need to take a giant step, take positive action, to deal with the problems before it is too late.

The author is Labour MP for Liverpool, Walton.

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Democracy may come off best in the Lib-Lab pact

On the day following that historic vote of confidence in the House of Commons, the Prime Minister, Jim Callaghan, was lunching with his former parliamentary colleague Charlie Pannell, now Lord Pannell. Towards the end of their lunch, Harold Wilson bore in sight and, as he made his way towards their table, Jim looked up with the words: "Well, and what would Houdini himself have done?"

What indeed? One thing, at least, is certain. Harold would have put nothing in writing, and it is very doubtful whether David Steel would have been able to persuade his colleagues to put their trust in a verbal agreement. Thus, with Houdini at the helm, we might now have been in the midst of a general election.

Time alone will show whether that would have been a good thing. The other day, John Parnell said that there are several terrible things in the world today and one of them is the prospect of a Tory government under Margaret Thatcher. Mr Healey is said to have added that another is the prospect of regular meetings with John Parnell.

If he really did say that, my guess is that he will soon change his mind. Jim's views are similar to his own and he expresses them with an infectious enthusiasm which might win more acceptance from both left and right than Mr Healey has so far managed on his own. But it is this enthusiasm which is likely to last this session out and it will inevitably have some effects upon politics and public policy generally.

One effect is certain. Mr Benyon's Abortion Bill is well-nigh certain to see no further light of day. Lack of parliamentary time is the usual reason for the demise of a Private Member's Bill, and it seems clear that the Government is anxious to get on with Mr Steel's hardly likely to find time for a measure designed to destroy the Abortion Act which David piloted through the Commons, however much time may appear to be available. For that, I for one will give three rousing cheers.

As one of the sponsors of David Steel's original Abortion Act, I am often accused of being pro-abortion. I am not. I regard abortion under any circumstances as being an undesirable procedure, and I would be vehemently opposed to it being in any way regarded as an acceptable alternative to sound family planning. But, however good our family planning services may become, there will always be cases, and many of them in which termination of the pregnancy is the only humane and acceptable solution.

Whatever he may say to the contrary, Mr Benyon's Bill would make it much more difficult for women to have pregnancies terminated, either privately or under the National Health Service, and far too

This compromise is likely to last this session out and it will inevitably have some effects upon politics and public policy generally

many are already having difficulties enough—often with tragic consequences, as I have seen within my own medical practice.

This is not to say that no reform is needed. David Steel himself is in favour of implementing the recommendations of the Lane Committee, and I hope that now, in the more tranquil atmosphere which should prevail, this is what will happen.

Another possible development which I hope will now be thwarted is the rumoured ban on saccharin. A development which would have catastrophic consequences for diabetics and others with weight problems. We must not repeat the error which was made over cyclamate. This latter artificial sweetener, the dangers of which (like saccharin) are nothing to those of sugar, was withdrawn as a result of evidence, largely supplied by sugar manufacturers in America, to the effect that rats, when fed with doses of cyclamate equivalent to adult human male consuming 20 barrels of soft drink every day for years, developed suspicious cellular changes—as well they might!

What, so-called "natural" food is wholly safe when consumed in grotesque quantities?

On the night that Cledwyn Hughes, the then Minister of Agriculture, announced the ban, I suggested to him that adequate labelling was all that was required and that he had no need to withdraw cyclamate. "We'd have been very much criticized if we hadn't," was his illuminating reply. This Government will have criticism enough to avoid without having hysterical food-faddists and the vested interests of sugar manufacturers.

But these are relatively minor matters. In the long term, with mutual goodwill and a readiness by both parties to accept some compromise, we could be on the brink of a new alignment in British politics which might give us, at long last, a government commanding the support of the majority of the electorate. With that, we may even be on the way to the stable and prosperous democracy for which so many of us have long yearned.

Lord Winstanley

The rabbit is just one of the animal 'invaders' we take for granted

In addition to playing host to such common animals as the house mouse and the grey squirrel the British Isles also provide a home for some improbable species

Approximately 50 alien vertebrate animals, which have been introduced to Britain by man, are at present living in a completely wild state in our country. They have been introduced for three main reasons—economic, ornamental and sporting.

The rabbit, which probably first appeared in Britain between the reigns of the Norman king, Stephen (1135-54), and the Plantagenets, Richard I (1189-99), filled an unenviable dual role, being valued equally for its flesh as for its fur.

The beautiful mandarin duck, now established on a number of widely scattered waters in England and on one in Scotland, was first introduced from China shortly before 1745 by a director of the East India Company, Sir Matthew Decker, who came to Richmond Green in Surrey.

The earliest evidence of our most widespread gamebird, the common pheasant, occurs in a manuscript of about 1177, which contains details of rations specified by the Earl of the East-Angles and West-Saxons (later King Harold II) for the monastery at Waltham Abbey, Essex, in 1059. Britain's largest gamebird, the turkey, like capercaillie, is unique in being the only successfully reintroduced erstwhile native species: the original stock became extinct around 1785, largely because of the depopulation of the Highlands; the present Scottish population is descended from 64 birds imported from Sweden to Taymouth Castle, Perthshire, by the Marquess of Breadalbane in 1837-38.

The principal means by which exotic animals have become naturalized are also three in number; they have either been deliberately liberated, or have escaped from captivity, or have arrived as shipboard stowaways.

The little owl was first introduced by the eccentric but engaging Charles Waterton who, "thinking that it would be peculiarly useful to the British horticulturalist, not by the way, in his kitchen-garden," liberated five from Italy at Walton Hall in Yorkshire in 1843 or 1844.

Most of our present stock, however, which is widely dispersed throughout England and Wales, derived from some set free in Northamptonshire from 1888 by that great naturalist, Thomas Lillerton Powys, Fourth Baron Lillerton.

Of our six species of deer, four the fallow, Japanese sika, Chinese or Reeves's and Indian muntjac or "barking deer" are naturalized escapees from captivity. Fallow were probably brought to Britain by the Phoenicians. Sika, which are widely though thinly scattered in parts of southern England, the Scottish Highlands, and parts of Ireland, were introduced to Powyscote, Enniskerry, Co Wicklow, by

Viscount Powerscourt in 1660. Muntjac—now common in parts of south-east England and East Anglia—and water deer, which are established in a number of separate districts in England, were imported by William Aubrey by the Duke of Bedford around the turn of the century.

Two deadly pests have arrived in Britain as unwitting passengers of man. The black rat was, traditionally, introduced in the baggage of returning twelfth-century Crusaders. Brown rats—most destructive of vermin—first reached our shores in ships from Russia in 1728-9.

In addition to playing host to such common animals as the house mouse and grey squirrel, the British Isles also provide a home for a number of improbable species. Two colonies of a sub-species of the rednecked wallaby, *Macropus rufogriseus benettii*, from Tasmania, have lived and bred in the wild, in north-central Sussex, since 1939-40. Similarly, two populations of porcupines—the Himalayan or Hodgson's and the crested—have existed and bred in complete freedom in Devon since 1880, and since 1969 and 1972 respectively.

The NCB itself has made the point that the Government will need to intervene in order to ensure its market with the electricity industry. Dugh not to know the size of any further subsidies to the CEB before we go any further, and then decide whether it is all that wise to use a high priced, low efficiency fuel just to generate electricity in the future?

It is tempting to think that concentrating the coal industry into new and highly mechanized pits will

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OLD CITIES: NEW TOWNS

Unlike most men in public life, Mr Peter Shore seems to get little satisfaction from the idea of a grand unveiling. He shows no impatience for the limelight publication of a housing finance review will place him in. As for his strategy for urban development, Mr Shore has been letting out a detail here and a suggestion there for months—leaving to Mr Healey the glory of announcing a subsidy of £100m—as if on purpose to minimize the drama of the White Paper that he has promised us very soon. The policy thus diffidently brought to light is a thoughtful one, wary of the dangers of largesse scattered indiscriminately from on high and of elevating one aspect of a complex problem to a false prominence. We shall have to wait for the White Paper to see exactly how the elements hang together.

There were two more instalments last week. One developed Mr Shore's ideas about partnership arrangements between central governments and councils with severe urban problems, reaffirmed his belief that the principal means of directing public funds to the inner cities should be rate support grant rather than special subsidies, and announced that the Home Office's urban programme would be transferred to his own department. The programme was originally given to the Home Office with the idea of holding in balance the diverse functions usually performed by the planning and social services departments. But now that the project is no longer experimental, it is sensible to give control of it to a Department of the Environment that ought in any case to be alive to these wider relationships.

Mr Shore's other announcement was in its way a landmark in British planning history. His outline of a smaller future for the new towns is not as savage as might have been feared, but his talk of "a sound basis for the final stage of our new town programme" did set a termination on an adventure that goes back thirty years (or, if the garden cities movement is

included, and it should be, back to the 1920s and beyond). The decision follows almost inevitably from our loss of confidence in limitless economic growth and from the continuing fall in our birth rate. But since nothing is so soon despised as an idea once it has come and gone, it is worth putting in a word for the new towns movement and its achievements, and for the role that growing new towns should play even in changed times.

There is almost a nostalgic pathos now about the prospect of the 1960s for the third generation of new towns. Such buoyancy, such boldness, such play with nodes and networks, with linear cities and flexible grids, such confidence in summing up landscapes ("Surplus soil from the city centre developments has been used to create a belvedere") and confronting landscapes (the central Lancashire city was to reach out north-eastwards to take advantage of "the aesthetic opportunities for close integration of the new architecture with the outlying fells of the Forest of Bowland... and the noble landscape of the Ribbles valley"). And "quickly" every plan repeats—it will work if it is done quickly.

The aspirations of the planners have been fulfilled, as far as reality can ever be expected to fall in with ideas on such a scale. Inevitably there have been errors of foresight, the early ventures assumed too low a level of car ownership, for instance, and Milton Keynes probably assumed one that will prove too high—but on the whole Britain has good reason to be proud of the new towns. It is not true that their success has been substantially at the expense of the older cities that have been losing employment and population. They have helped to relieve pressures that still need relief and have made contributions to regional and national prosperity that would often never have been made otherwise. Their value in the new conditions was reaffirmed very recently by the strategic plan for the northern

region and the revised plan for the south-east. Even if population is static, the trend to smaller households continues, and the yearning to get out of the slums remains. It is far more likely to be the expensive and often brutal inner city housing developments of the recent past that will seem already—seem—to have been misconceived.

There is a momentum about these things. Severe cuts would affect the confidence of industrial investors in the towns, disrupt the process of bringing in to live in at each stage of development, and waste a proportion of a heavy public investment on infrastructure and services (though the full burden on public money even of Milton Keynes would have been far less than the development costs of Concord, for instance).

Lower targets on the scale Mr. Shore envisages will not cripple any major project (with one exception—the city in central Lancashire, which is still at an early stage, and which it might have been better frankly to abandon). But this must not be the first of a succession of raids. For some older towns like Harlow, the announcement marks the end of the time of expansion. In the foreseeable future there will clearly be no more starts on other new towns. For all the towns the announcement should enforce the already acknowledged need to receive from the inner cities the unskilled and disadvantaged on a greater scale than before. For some, it should also mean greater efforts to make work in the new town accessible to people living in nearby depressed areas. And for the practitioners of the art of creating cities, not only on empty fields, as in the early days, but in harmony with existing communities like Peterborough and mid-Buckinghamshire, the next stage of their art must be to face the far more complex challenge of densely settled city centres, burdened with obsolescent industries and entrenched parochial interests, and far declined in morale.

AN UGLY CONFRONTATION IN PAKISTAN

As soon as the decision to hold elections in Pakistan was announced early in January violence was reported from several towns, even between factions of Mr Bhutto's own party. The troubles went on throughout the election campaign, following allegations that the nomination of opposition candidates had been frustrated by kidnapping them on the eve of nomination day and that those in prison by reason of their opposition to Mr Bhutto's Government had had their candidatures rejected. The total of dead and wounded when security forces opened fire on demonstrating crowds mounted up and seemed likely to add to the political resentment.

Things got worse when the election results were announced on March 8. One hundred and fifty-five seats in the 200-member assembly were awarded to Mr Bhutto's People's Party and only thirty-six went to the opposition. The opposition Pakistan National Alliance—grouping nine fairly small and ill-assorted parties—then organized massive demonstrations alleging wholesale rigging and demanding that the elections be annulled. Two weeks later these demonstrations gained even more steam when

Mrs Gandhi's considerable defeat in the Indian election carried the implication that, but for the rigging Pakistan, too, might have overthrown its ruler and its own state of emergency to boot. The violence in Lahore over the weekend not only shows how strong the pressure still remains; in so far as the Punjab is the most important of Pakistan's constituent provinces it is there that Mr Bhutto's electoral record must stand or fall.

There can be little doubt that rigging did go on; Mr Bhutto's style of government would have encouraged such initiatives on the part of his followers even if nothing had been said or done by the party headquarters. The Chief Election Commissioner has since admitted that he had to rely on official machinery which was not under his direct control and that the Commission could not be blamed for the misdeeds of others. But there can also be little doubt that even had there been no rigging the opposition alliance would not have won the election. Conditions in Pakistan, though scarcely less restrictive of freedom than those of Mrs Gandhi's emergency in India, were admittedly more critical by virtue of the 1971 disaster in East Pakistan and the

emergence of Bangladesh. Several of Mr Bhutto's evicted or disappointed colleagues had joined the opposition alliance but none of them enjoyed the national status of figures such as Mr Jayaprakash Narayan or Mr Morarji Desai in India.

While refusing to meet the opposition's insistent demand for fresh elections, Mr Bhutto has met the demonstrators with a mixture of conciliation and force. His early reactions to the opposition alliance seem to have been somewhat the same as Mrs Gandhi's were to the similar alliance in India in 1975 when she declared the emergency—that they were purely disruptive and unrepresentative. Since then Mr Bhutto has made concessions that might have satisfied his opponents had they been made more promptly. As it is most of the opposition leaders are now under arrest and they in turn have been displaying their intransigence; thus Air Marshal Asghar Khan has refused any release until fresh elections are called. Both sides have got themselves into an ugly confrontation which can only damage the country. Peace talks of some kind are now urgently necessary.

Value of examinations

From Mr David Terry
Sir, While agreeing entirely with the final proposal of your letter of the school examinations (April 5) that a test of competence at school must provide the opportunity to study to O-level, there is much else where in the letter which I greatly regret, not so much for its substance as for the inferences which I fear will be drawn.

You say that a good CSE pass can be worthless in getting any kind of skilled work. No doubt you are correct; but one instance would suffice to verify your statement. In my experience it is generally true, and much more encouraging to those of average ability, to say that a good CSE pass is of considerable value on the job market. The form of your assertion, like the tone of the rest of the letter, will encourage employers to neglect those of average ability at school who nevertheless possess most desirable qualities of diligence.

Worse still, it will encourage parents to press heads for their children to be put on CSE courses even if they are of only average ability and will have no chance of success. Such requests pose painful dilemmas to heads: to agree is to risk failure and disillusion, to refuse is to place the pupil on a course which he will know his parents deprecate and which he will therefore consider a mark of failure to be placed on.

Having deplored your attitude to the CSE exam, I would, nevertheless, agree that variation in policy between schools is cause for concern. A national code of practice would, perhaps, be useful.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID TERRY, Headmaster,
The Headlands School,
Crickle Road,
Swindon,
Wiltshire,
April 5.

Jews at universities

From Mr C. M. Copeland, and others
Sir, The Times recently (March 19) carried a report on the limitation, by the local students' union, of the legitimate activities of the Jewish societies at the Universities of York and Salford, and on the attempted limitation of such activities by the Jewish society at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology. This is clearly a serious matter for the students who are directly affected, even if the number of people involved is relatively small. A letter by Simon Caplan and Alan Elson in yesterday's Times (March 29) in yesterday's Times (March 29) dealt with some aspects of this problem. But we believe that there are also much more serious political implications.

During recent years the students' unions at our various universities have acquired a much greater degree of autonomy than they used to have. They can administer their finances with little interference by university authorities, they can foster or inhibit all manner of activities, and they now possess very considerable degrees of patronage by providing subsidies for those student societies which have gained their approval. The money for these subsidies comes from the capitation fees paid to the unions by local authorities on behalf of students on maintenance grants.

All these developments are very desirable in principle for ideally they would help our students learn

how to govern themselves sensibly and for the common good. Yet the recent experience at Salford, York and UMIST indicates that this is not the way that things have worked themselves out. It seems rather that the policies of the student unions are being made by pressure groups with rather unstable and undemocratic views. As might have been expected the majority of students make little notice of their activities. But occasionally the leadership raises an issue which attracts the attention of a substantial minority. There is no doubt for example that Arab students would be interested in any attempt to put an interdict on Jewish societies, on the allegation that by supporting Zionism they are supporting racism. To our minds this illustrates the real danger.

Society in this country has become more democratic and has given students far more freedom than ever before. As a result totalitarian factions have acquired greater power in running student affairs. The student body is varied and cosmopolitan. There will often be some faction that will support whatever extremist view is being pushed by the current student leaders. When such an issue is put to the vote, the decision will often lie with students who come from other countries where there is not much democracy. This is a reduction to absurdity. We have allowed more freedom and have thereby fostered intolerance. We are letting democratic institutions be dominated by people who do not appreciate what democracy is. There must be a better way to run our affairs.

Yours faithfully,
C. M. COPELAND,
National Director,
Hillel Foundation.
RICHARD HANSON,
Chairman Manchester Area,
Council of Christians and Jews.
F. D. KAHN,
27 Balbrook Avenue,
Manchester,
March 30.

Rhodesia transition to majority rule

From Lord Alport
Mr. Michael Kappe's article on Rhodesia and Robert Mugabe's report of Dr Owen's plans for his forthcoming tour of Southern Africa in your issue of April 6 must have filled many of those who, like myself, are anxious to see the transition to majority rule in Zimbabwe, with a sense of exasperation bordering almost on despair.

We learn that yet another Secretary of State is going out to set up a constitutional conference to be attended by the same black and white politicians whose attitudes are known to be irreconcilable. Has Dr Owen never heard of the constitutional conference of 1962 of Tiger, of Fearless, of the Home-Goodman negotiation or of Geneva? Mr Berthoud says "by whom the constitution would be implemented would have to be discussed afterwards". He adds presumably on the basis of Foreign Office briefing, that there might be more reasonable white leaders than Mr Smith to take part in the negotiations. Who are they and whence will they derive their authority? Does he think that the Mashona based UANC and the Matabele based Patriotic Front are going to sink their differences at the conference table? Will either agree to a constitution which entrenches the other in power?

The "Front Line Presidents" have been right in one respect. They tried to unite the Rhodesian Africans in a single political party. The United African National Council was the result. Since then President Smith has his colleagues have switched their support to the Patriotic Front in the belief that the latter would dislodge the Rhodesian Front by force, with the help of communist arms and Cuban mercenaries.

But the evidence is there that if this happens there will be majority rule in Zimbabwe? There will certainly be a lot of dead—black and white—but the outcome will be a military dictatorship. Why is it that the Rhodesian Africans, who are more politically conscious, have far fewer means of skilled and educated manpower and could inherit a more sophisticated economy than any other in Central Africa, should have their destiny decided for them "at the muzzle of a gun"?

One of the six principles was that any constitutional settlement for independent Zimbabwe should be acceptable to a majority of the people of Rhodesia.

Why not ask the people of Rhodesia—black and white—with whom they wish power to reside?

We are not dealing with the niceties of sophisticated constitutional arrangements. We should not be influenced by the respective killing power of communist armed guerrillas or the Rhodesian Army and the British South African Police. We should be seeking to find out what the majority of the people, who are to live and work in the Zimbabwe of the future, really want.

I do not know what they would decide. But I do know that the Rhodesian Front government believe that a referendum is practicable. I do know that at any rate the UANC are prepared to put their fortunes to the hazard of a vote—if others are unwilling, let them be judged accordingly. I do know that there are methods of organizing a referendum which have been successful in India and Kenya, and which could be applied to Rhodesia. I am certain that to have credibly any such referendum must be supervised by an international team which could be provided by Great Britain, the United States and the OAU.

Of course, there will be difficulties. The voting which sees itself looking will resort to violence. The guerrillas will have to turn from the use of their guns to casting their votes. Europeans in Rhodesia will have to accept that Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe should take part in the referendum campaign. All this will be very distasteful to many people, but the alternative is to see all past achievement and future hope for black and white in Rhodesia being gradually dissolved into a human disaster such as has characterized Angola and Mozambique.

If the British Government still believes that the future of Zimbabwe should be decided by the majority of black and white people in Rhodesia and not by the "Front Line Presidents" or by communist weaponry, let them give the chance of choosing with whom power should ultimately lie. I am certain that this is possible if the United Kingdom, the United States and the Republic of South Africa are prepared to underwrite such a policy. I am certain that Mr Kappe's final words "disaster is daily closing closer" will be conclusive evidence of the bankruptcy of statesmanship among the governments of the free world.

Yours faithfully,
ALPORT,
House of Lords,
April 7.

Liberal-Labour pact

From Mr Richard Lamb
Sir, History is on Bernard Levin's side when he prophesies electoral disaster for the Liberal Party as a result of the Steel-Callaghan pact (column 4, April 5). In the short 1924 Parliament and again from 1929 to 1931 the Liberals under first Asquith and then Lloyd George kept Ramsey MacDonald's government in power by under the counter-arrangements. The Liberal candidates and MPs were put into impossible situations in their constituencies because they were forced to defend the government's record for which they had no responsibility, while at the same time Labour launched savage constituency attacks on the Liberal government. The result was the working class chiefly because they would not support nationalization or a capital levy.

The petrol tax affair shows only too clearly that Steel has put Liberal candidates into a similar position in the constituencies again, and now we are faced with a general election, whether this year or next year or 1978, will be disastrous for the Liberal Party as were by-elections and general elections in 1924 and 1931.

Nationalist pressures

From Mr David Green
Sir, The Conservative and Labour Parties—and the traditional political pattern which they have imposed on the United Kingdom—owe their origin to the great gulf separating the condition of those with capital from labour. Preeminently the distinction was economic, but it was also cultural and social. That gulf has narrowed to the point at which it is barely perceptible—evidenced not least by the interchangeability of members of both parties.

It has been replaced by—and perhaps has, by its erosion, thrown into sharper relief—the gulf separating classes in the various regions of the United Kingdom. Again the distinction is preeminently economic; but it is also social and cultural. There is now a far wider gap between those in Wales, Scotland and England—and indeed between some of the regions of England—than there is between any of the socio-economic groups within those regions.

This process has already been acknowledged by the major growth of the SNP in Scotland and is fast developing with Plaid Cymru in Wales. As it develops those parties have moved in towards the centre ground in politics, eschewing the extremes that attracted their foundation.

There are clear signs in the Stockfish-by-election that the same

process is developing in England—both in the move towards moderation of the National Party and in the results it achieved.

So long as moves towards a federal structure, that allows constitutional recognition of the differing regional interests, are frustrated, these nationalist moves will intensify, and will increasingly threaten the national unity which those who resist devolution assert as their concern. Nationalist pressures from Scotland and Wales will inevitably evoke a nationalist response in England.

The record of Westminster governments in recognizing the inevitable before it overwhelms them does not encourage the view that the main parties will be any quicker in acting to avert conflict on their own doorstep than they have been elsewhere. The secession of some Scottish Labour members indicates very clearly a route which the major parties could follow in the interest of their political survival nationally and of the national fabric. But unless they do recognize and act in anticipation of the tide it will overpower them. Much else of value may be lost with it.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GREEN,
Rhyl y Harding,
Castor, Northamptonshire,
Near Havardwest,
Pembrokeshire,
April 5.

From Professor W. K. Hayman, FRG, and others
Sir, As mathematicians, we would like to express our extreme disquiet at the treatment of the distinguished mathematician, José Luis Massera, by the Uruguayan authorities. He is well known as the senior author of a treatise on differential equations published by Academic Press.

He was arrested during a wave of repression in November 1975 and was tortured. He was afterwards in the military hospital suffering from fractures as a result of his treatment. He has been adopted by Amnesty International as a prisoner of conscience. In prison Massera wrote an essay, *Plato and two mathematical papers*, but this material was taken from him and is in the hands of the official censor, according to his family.

If a man with such an international reputation as a scientist can be treated in this way how many lesser known individuals must be facing similar fates?

We hope that HM Government and other interested organizations will send vigorous protests to the Uruguayan authorities in the hope of securing Massera's release and permission to come to this country.

Yours faithfully,
W. K. HAYMAN, J. G. CLUNIE,
A. C. OFFORD, J. J. STUART, C. ATKINSON, C. PRETZ,
BAUMSLAG, G. J. WHITROW,
Y. N. DOWKER, M. J. L. BERNAL, E. L. ORTIZ, K. E. PITMAN,
P. A. W. HOLYHEAD, A. E. K. DOWSON, R. L. JACOBS, A. J. MAUTNER, E. P. WOLFFARTH,
Imperial College,
R. R. STREATER, Bedford College,
C. H. DOWKER, Birkbeck College,
A. TALBOT, Brunel University,
Edinburgh,
E. A. POWER, University College London,
T. BROOKE BENJAMIN, Essex,
F. HORNBLLOWER, J. L. BELL, H. FREEDMAN, K. G. BISHOP,
Strand School of Economics,
April 7.

Nuclear power and civil liberties

From the Secretary of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority
Sir, Mr Sieghart's letter of March 31 raised some points on "Nuclear power and civil liberties". He will be aware that the Department of Energy is receiving questions on the social and political implications of nuclear power from the organizations responsible for the pamphlet to which he refers. In a recent Parliamentary reply, Mr Eadie undertook to place copies of answers to these questions in libraries of both Houses. I should, however, like to comment now on some of the points raised in Mr Sieghart's letter.

1. Our nuclear programme already supplies more than 10 per cent of our electricity and we have been dealing with plutonium in Britain for well over 20 years. There is nothing new, therefore, in the extraction of plutonium.

2. I do not know on what basis it is stated that it is not practicable for the reprocessing to take place at power stations. A possible solution to any future problem of transporting plutonium would be to group a small number of fast reactor power stations with their own reprocessing plant. It does not follow, therefore, that increasing quantities of plutonium will be transported between the reprocessing plant and the fast reactor in the future as Mr Sieghart claims. Even if this were not done at all, however, Mr Sieghart's source is wrong to suggest that thousands of tons of plutonium would be transported in Britain each year. This figure is at least 10 times too large and, for a long time to come, perhaps 100 times too large.

3. The implication of the next three points which Mr Sieghart makes about the transportation of plutonium is that it would not be very difficult for a terrorist group to hijack it and turn it into a nuclear device. However, for the type of nuclear programme discussed by Mr Sieghart, the plutonium will be moved as a mixed oxide with uranium, the plutonium content being such that specialized chemical treatment will be required to separate the plutonium before even a start could be made on the manufacture of any nuclear bomb.

4. Mr Sieghart says that plutonium could become "unaccounted for" during transportation so that a gross error in the accounting of that they had plutonium in their possession even when they had not. However the security procedures used to safeguard plutonium would ensure that any physical loss would not go undetected.

5. Mr Sieghart speaks particularly of the Atomic Energy Authority's Constabulary. The Constabulary consists of special constables appointed and duly sworn in, under statutory authority (The Special Constables Act 1923). The AEA (Special Constables) Act 1976

did not provide any unusual powers in relation to firearms. In this respect it merely placed these special constables in the same position as members of other civil police forces in enabling them to acquire and possess firearms without having to obtain individual firearms certificates. Further, the Act does not provide AEA constables with any special powers of pursuit and arrest; it ensures that they continue to have the ordinary powers of police constables in the kind of circumstances which might arise when they are protecting nuclear material. (Which this provision they would cease to have police powers 15 miles beyond that station.)

As to the handling and use of firearms, AEA constables are subject, like other police officers, to the ordinary provisions of the law. Administratively, their possession and use of firearms are governed by rules made by the Chief Constable of the force and approved by the Authority. The terms of these rules have also been agreed by the Secretary of State for Energy, and they may not be changed without the latter's agreement. An important feature of the rules is that constables are only issued with firearms when they are undertaking duties involving the protection of certain nuclear materials.

As to accountability, it is wrong for Mr Sieghart to say that the constabulary is not responsible to any elected body. It is responsible to the Authority, and the Authority answers through the Secretary of State for Energy to Parliament. The Secretary of State has also said that he will be ready to answer in Parliament for any incident, apart from training, in which a weapon is fired by an AEA constable.

6. As regards security and surveillance measures more generally, the crucial consideration is the impact of terrorism on society generally. If the Government decides that major additional precautions need to be taken in respect of nuclear power, the impact of terrorism in Britain would surely have reached such a state that similar stringent measures would have had to be taken affecting other industries, activities and public services.

7. The survey carried out by the Opinion Research Centre and published in *New Society* of March 31 gives some indications of public attitudes to terrorism in relation to nuclear power. Sixty-three per cent of those polled are reported to have said that they did not think that any future terrorist threat was a strong enough reason for not building more nuclear power stations.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. SEARBY,
United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority,
11 Charles II Street, SW1,
April 5.

Prison discipline

From Mr Graham Zelikoff
Sir, Can your readers really believe, ask the governor of Brixton Prison (March 28), that it is necessary for prisoners to wear their complaints on smuggled laundry paper? Since prisoners are not allowed to make these approaches openly, they are forced to adopt methods of this kind when the official channels have been tried and found wanting. Mr Winston Churchill has you believe that the internal machinery was beyond question, but the points made in his letter, while substantially accurate, convey a seriously false impression.

(1) For reasons I have recently advanced in these columns and need no repeat. ("Why prisoners should have an ombudsman of their own", October 4, 1976), access to the board of visitors and the Home Secretary is not an adequate protection.

(2) There is no right to call witnesses as disciplinary adjudications. The consent of the chairman is required. Nor can fellow inmates be compelled to testify as they could in an ordinary court; and very often, for obvious reasons, they are reluctant to do so.

(3) Over 60 prisoners are in segregation "for the maintenance of good order or discipline" under

rule 43 on any one day. Mr Wigginton stresses the protection afforded by the board of visitors; but as the Jellicoe committee said of this in 1975: "On the face of it this is an important safeguard, but it is less impressive when it is realised that the member does not ever to see the prisoner concerned, and that any member can be consulted, by telephone if necessary, by a check on the abuse of authority we are not convinced that this procedure is sufficiently effective."

(4) It is the very fact that a prisoner may be punished for making a false and malicious allegation that discourages the making of complaints against staff and vitiates the whole complaints machinery. It will be recalled, for example, that not long ago Myra Hindley was severely punished for this offence, only later to be vindicated when the truth fortuitously emerged.

It is as important to have impartial and independent repudiation of the unfounded allegation as it is to expose improper conduct whenever it is the prisoner concerned who is the offender. The existing machinery is incapable of doing either.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM ZELIKOFF,
Queen Mary College,
University of London,
Mile End Road, E1.

Moving from the Treasury

From Mr Anne Stevens
Sir, In leaving the Treasury for private enterprise Mr Alan Lord and Sir Derek Mitchell are following a pattern that has long been commonplace amongst senior French officials, especially in the financial field. The advantages of such moves—the possibilities for increased understanding between government and industry; the opportunities opened up for younger men—are often cited by those who admire the French system. This disadvantage which the generalization of such a practice can entail—the possibilities for abuse and collusion—are also vehemently denounced by many French critics.

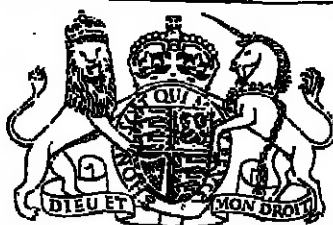
Perhaps, like its French opposite number, British business is beginning to cover and even pay for the qualities and skills of senior public servants. Has the hoary old myth of the amateur taken another blow? Yours faithfully,
ANNE STEVENS,
40 Elm Road, SW14,
April 2.

Flattering flora

From Mrs John Marshall
Sir, While not claiming to be an expert in horticultural matters, I believe I can answer Mr M. E. Hayward's question about his weeds (April 2).

I think the reason why plants whose owners talk to them seem to flourish better than the rest is that, when addressing a plant from close to, in whatever form one blows carbon dioxide over it. And this, during the daytime, is what it likes to breathe. It is rather like giving extra oxygen to a human patient.

Therefore, I suggest that Mr Hayward should refrain from speaking to the weeds at all by day. He might try the effect of haranguing them at night when they want oxygen instead of carbon dioxide! Yours faithfully,
JOSEPHINE MARSHALL,
27a Barkston Gardens, SWS,



COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 9: The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron of the Windsor and Eton Football Club, this evening attended the start of the finals of the Junior Club Football Competition at the Windsor and Eton Football Club, Stagmead.

Today's engagements

Exhibition: Artists at Curwen, Tate Gallery, 10.5.
Lecture: "The silver screen, from optical toys to cinematography." Science Museum, South Kensington, 3.
Horse show: Regent's Park, 9.30.
City walk: Smithfield: bunting and burning, meet at St Paul's station, 3.
Easter International showjumping, Hickstead, West Sussex, 9.6.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr Christopher Gower, organist of Portsmouth Cathedral, to the same post at the new Peterborough Cathedral on the retirement of Dr Stanley Vann on November 1.
Miss Joyce Baird, president of the Association of Assistant Mistresses, to be secretary of the association early next year in succession to Miss Sheila Wood. Miss E. A. Gray, head of the English department at Wakefield High School for Girls, is to be president for 1978.
Mr David Wilks, president of Leicester University Students' Union, to be chairman of the Federation of Conservative Students.

Prospective candidate

Mr Harry Toseland, aged 43, a sales representative from Nottingham, is to be prospective Liberal parliamentary candidate for Derby North. At the last general election Mr Toseland won 4,193 in a four-cornered contest.

Birthdays

Colin J. P. Carne, VC, 71: Sir Ferguson Crawford, 83: Mr Laurence Irving, 80: Sir Alan Lancelotti, 90: Sir Robert Maclean, 69: Mr John Nash, 84.

Service for airmen

The annual service of commemoration for British and Commonwealth airmen who died while flying on operations from the United Kingdom and northern Europe during the Second World War and who have no known graves will be held at Runnymede memorial at 11 am on May 8.

Waterway awards

Shell UK Oil and the Inland Waterways Association have announced a £5,000 award scheme to encourage the restoration of the country's inland waterways. The projects will be evaluated on a regional basis.

Highland libraries aid

The British Library has made a grant of £9,000 to the Highland Regional Council, Inverness, for cataloguing and publishing a book and manuscript collections including books in Gaelic, under the supervision of Dr Robert Donaldson, of the National Library of Scotland.

Broadcasting

Dan, Badger and all the Coal (BBC 6.50) is a lyrical dramatized documentary of the hard life for both man and pit horse in a Welsh mine. Michael Crawford explains how he created the character of Frank Spencer in To be Perfectly Frank (BBC 7.45)—dangerous stunts included—and Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme (ITV 11.10) pay a musical tribute to Cole Porter. The Anderson Tapes (ITV 9.15) is an exciting robbery film with Sean Connery; Arlott and Trueman on Cricket (BBC 6.25) a sheer delight to watch.—T.S.

BBC 1

9.15 am, The Flumps, 9.30, Bar-bapapa, 9.35, Noggins the No. 4, 9.45, Why Don't You...? 10.10, Singing Ringing Tree, 10.35, Fabulous Animals, 11.00, Film, A Challenge for Robin Hood, with Barry Ingham, James Hayter, 12.30 pm, Holiday Grandstand: 12.40, Football Focus: 12.55, 2.05, 3.05, Motor Racing: 1.20, 3.35, Show Jumping, Embassy Grand Prix, 1.50, 2.25, 2.50, 3.25, Racing from Kempton: 3.35, Swimming, Coca-Cola International, 4.45, Final Score, 5.00 News, 5.10, Sport, 5.15, Billy Smart's Circus, 6.15, Film, Tom Thumb, with Russ Tamblyn, Alan Young, Terry-Thomas, Peter Sellers, 7.45, To be Perfectly Frank, with Michael Crawford; documentary about Frank Spencer, 8.25, Mike Yarwood, 8.55, Starsky and Hutch, 9.45 News, 10.00, Film, The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie, with Maggie Smith, Robert Stephens, Pamela Franklin, Gordon Jackson, Celia Johnson, 11.50, Weather.

Regional variations (BBC 1)

9.15 am, Wales, 9.30, Bar-bapapa, 9.35, Noggins the No. 4, 9.45, Why Don't You...? 10.10, Singing Ringing Tree, 10.35, Fabulous Animals, 11.00, Film, A Challenge for Robin Hood, with Barry Ingham, James Hayter, 12.30 pm, Holiday Grandstand: 12.40, Football Focus: 12.55, 2.05, 3.05, Motor Racing: 1.20, 3.35, Show Jumping, Embassy Grand Prix, 1.50, 2.25, 2.50, 3.25, Racing from Kempton: 3.35, Swimming, Coca-Cola International, 4.45, Final Score, 5.00 News, 5.10, Sport, 5.15, Billy Smart's Circus, 6.15, Film, Tom Thumb, with Russ Tamblyn, Alan Young, Terry-Thomas, Peter Sellers, 7.45, To be Perfectly Frank, with Michael Crawford; documentary about Frank Spencer, 8.25, Mike Yarwood, 8.55, Starsky and Hutch, 9.45 News, 10.00, Film, The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie, with Maggie Smith, Robert Stephens, Pamela Franklin, Gordon Jackson, Celia Johnson, 11.50, Weather.

Yorkshire

9.15 am, Oscar, 10.00, Jamie, 10.10, The Flumps, 10.30, Bar-bapapa, 10.35, Noggins the No. 4, 10.45, Why Don't You...? 11.00, Singing Ringing Tree, 11.35, Fabulous Animals, 12.00, Film, A Challenge for Robin Hood, with Barry Ingham, James Hayter, 12.30 pm, Holiday Grandstand: 12.40, Football Focus: 12.55, 2.05, 3.05, Motor Racing: 1.20, 3.35, Show Jumping, Embassy Grand Prix, 1.50, 2.25, 2.50, 3.25, Racing from Kempton: 3.35, Swimming, Coca-Cola International, 4.45, Final Score, 5.00 News, 5.10, Sport, 5.15, Billy Smart's Circus, 6.15, Film, Tom Thumb, with Russ Tamblyn, Alan Young, Terry-Thomas, Peter Sellers, 7.45, To be Perfectly Frank, with Michael Crawford; documentary about Frank Spencer, 8.25, Mike Yarwood, 8.55, Starsky and Hutch, 9.45 News, 10.00, Film, The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie, with Maggie Smith, Robert Stephens, Pamela Franklin, Gordon Jackson, Celia Johnson, 11.50, Weather.

Border

9.15 am, Oscar, 10.00, Jamie, 10.10, The Flumps, 10.30, Bar-bapapa, 10.35, Noggins the No. 4, 10.45, Why Don't You...? 11.00, Singing Ringing Tree, 11.35, Fabulous Animals, 12.00, Film, A Challenge for Robin Hood, with Barry Ingham, James Hayter, 12.30 pm, Holiday Grandstand: 12.40, Football Focus: 12.55, 2.05, 3.05, Motor Racing: 1.20, 3.35, Show Jumping, Embassy Grand Prix, 1.50, 2.25, 2.50, 3.25, Racing from Kempton: 3.35, Swimming, Coca-Cola International, 4.45, Final Score, 5.00 News, 5.10, Sport, 5.15, Billy Smart's Circus, 6.15, Film, Tom Thumb, with Russ Tamblyn, Alan Young, Terry-Thomas, Peter Sellers, 7.45, To be Perfectly Frank, with Michael Crawford; documentary about Frank Spencer, 8.25, Mike Yarwood, 8.55, Starsky and Hutch, 9.45 News, 10.00, Film, The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie, with Maggie Smith, Robert Stephens, Pamela Franklin, Gordon Jackson, Celia Johnson, 11.50, Weather.

Grampian

9.15 am, Oscar, 10.00, Jamie, 10.10, The Flumps, 10.30, Bar-bapapa, 10.35, Noggins the No. 4, 10.45, Why Don't You...? 11.00, Singing Ringing Tree, 11.35, Fabulous Animals, 12.00, Film, A Challenge for Robin Hood, with Barry Ingham, James Hayter, 12.30 pm, Holiday Grandstand: 12.40, Football Focus: 12.55, 2.05, 3.05, Motor Racing: 1.20, 3.35, Show Jumping, Embassy Grand Prix, 1.50, 2.25, 2.50, 3.25, Racing from Kempton: 3.35, Swimming, Coca-Cola International, 4.45, Final Score, 5.00 News, 5.10, Sport, 5.15, Billy Smart's Circus, 6.15, Film, Tom Thumb, with Russ Tamblyn, Alan Young, Terry-Thomas, Peter Sellers, 7.45, To be Perfectly Frank, with Michael Crawford; documentary about Frank Spencer, 8.25, Mike Yarwood, 8.55, Starsky and Hutch, 9.45 News, 10.00, Film, The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie, with Maggie Smith, Robert Stephens, Pamela Franklin, Gordon Jackson, Celia Johnson, 11.50, Weather.

TV version of crucifixion makes a profound point

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs
Correspondent

Last week ATV claimed an audience of 21.5 million for the first instalment of Franco Zeffirelli's *Jesus of Nazareth*, and yesterday's audience for the second half is likely to have been of comparable dimensions. In spite of some unfavourable reviews, the popular success of the television adventure has delighted the churches in Britain. But in religious matters there is a price to be paid for triumph. As Zeffirelli made abundantly clear in the film, Jesus chose failure rather than success. ATV set out to succeed, and succeeded; there is a paradox there.

Even if every word of each of the four Gospels is accepted as literally, historically, and objectively true, an objective biography of Jesus is impossible. The basic mystery of the man is in his personality, and any approach to it can be little more than a guess that tells more about the author or artist than about Jesus.

Zeffirelli cast Robert Powell

for his eyes, it is said, thereby making his personal guess at the mystery.

Powell, in his turn, seemed diffident about projecting any distinct personality to Jesus, giving a performance that is RADA student could copy if he stuck to the lines and the directions; a white Anglo-Saxon middle-class Jesus, very acceptable to the watching multitude, and made all the more familiar by the slightly archaic "biblical" English of the script.

That is certainly valid. As no one can be sure what the culture of first-century Palestine was like, any attempt to reproduce it would have been no more than a preposterous experiment in antiquarianism. One can guess through his own cultural window, and Zeffirelli produced his product exactly for his market. So did El Greco. The real difficulties of writing a biography of Jesus were evaded, as they have to be.

In all the main churches the centre of the theological stage

is held by the school of biblical scholarship, which picks and chooses its way through the texts, attaching different dates and different sources to each section; an interpolation here, a variation there, a questionable translation of a lost Hebrew script in one place, an imaginative invention by an unknown ancient Greek in another.

The wise men of the twentieth century know very well that no one followed Jesus round with notebook and pencil, or even interviewed eyewitnesses who had the gift of total recall. The Gospels were meant to be understood and interpreted; they were not meant to be taken as literal history.

If they are true, rather than false, it is not in the sense that a newspaper account of an air crash is true or false. But Zeffirelli presented his film to the viewing public as if biblical criticism had never been heard of.

It is as acceptable an approach as any, as long as it

is understood as Zeffirelli's Jesus, not the authentic Jesus, who remains unknown, as much a subjective statement as Bach's Jesus, Tintin's Jesus, Michelangelo's Jesus, the Jesus of the black Christian in Soweto or the white Christian in the Ukraine.

As well as Zeffirelli's Jesus, the Jesus of the film's mastermind, there was Powell's Jesus, the Jesus of the actor who had an unplayable part with unseemly lines and impossible, inconceivable charisma.

There was also the Jesus of the electronic camera, with zoom lenses enabling millions to penetrate the gloom of Gethsemane to watch his agony therein, or to look him in the eyes from about three feet away while he hung on the cross.

There were no spectators pure and simple at Calvary, only participants; in introducing the very concept of the pure spectator, Zeffirelli changes everything. The television viewer can halt the crucifixion at the touch of a

button on his set. It is a vast trivialization, inherent in the whole idea of a television Jesus. The ultimate and inevitable difficulty was Powell's. He chose not to impose a strong personal interpretation on the role. Powell's Jesus was safely anonymous. He did not try to tell us about the hidden power of the man, what it was about him that made such an impact. The real truth of that style of performance emerged only in the final and magnificent climax, the crucifixion.

A man hanging naked and outstretched from a cross does not have to pretend to be a man hanging naked and outstretched from a cross. He was not acting any more, he was Robert Powell being himself.

In the end they crucified Mr A. N. Other; making by accident, as it were, a profound point about Christ, who is crucified every day, nowadays sometimes in front of a film unit representing the rest of us. "Father forgive them, they know not what they do," he said to the camera, and it needed saying.



Bishop Nerses Beshalian, Bishop of the Armenian Church in London, presenting Mr Loris Tjeknavorian, composer, conductor and chairman of the newly formed Institute of Armenian Music, with the inscription of patronage from Vasken the First, Supreme Catholics of all Armenians, in the church.

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy

ADMIRAL L. J. M. MIDDLETON, Nelson as Cdr HMS *Orion* to TOSAS in command of the *Orion* class submarine HMS *Orion* (S101) as Cdr. ADMIRAL L. J. M. MIDDLETON, Nelson as Cdr HMS *Orion* to TOSAS in command of the *Orion* class submarine HMS *Orion* (S101) as Cdr. ADMIRAL L. J. M. MIDDLETON, Nelson as Cdr HMS *Orion* to TOSAS in command of the *Orion* class submarine HMS *Orion* (S101) as Cdr.

The Army

ADMIRAL L. J. M. MIDDLETON, Nelson as Cdr HMS *Orion* to TOSAS in command of the *Orion* class submarine HMS *Orion* (S101) as Cdr. ADMIRAL L. J. M. MIDDLETON, Nelson as Cdr HMS *Orion* to TOSAS in command of the *Orion* class submarine HMS *Orion* (S101) as Cdr.

The Air Force

ADMIRAL L. J. M. MIDDLETON, Nelson as Cdr HMS *Orion* to TOSAS in command of the *Orion* class submarine HMS *Orion* (S101) as Cdr. ADMIRAL L. J. M. MIDDLETON, Nelson as Cdr HMS *Orion* to TOSAS in command of the *Orion* class submarine HMS *Orion* (S101) as Cdr.

Latest wills

Mrs Dorothy Whitford Perrett, of St Albans, left £16,343 net. After a personal bequest she left the residue equally among the trustees of St Peter, St Alban, the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution and Royal Masonic Hospital.

Other estates include (net, before duty paid; duty not disclosed):

Cohen, Mr Israel, of Edgborough, £126,868.

Hall, Mrs Martha Gertrude, of London, £112,061.

Jones, Mr William Henry, of Liverpool, company director, £126,607.

Mather-Jackson, Sir George Charles, 5th baronet, of Farnham, Surrey, company director, £119,009.

Tobelman, Mr Robert Michael Albert, of Sheffields, Essex, £153,961.

St John of Sesto, Lord, Viscountess, of Sesto, in England, Wales and the Irish Republic, £136,415.

25 years ago

From The Times of Wednesday, April 9, 1952.

Home sweet home

John Howard Payne died a hundred years ago today at Tunis where he was American consul; but he is not yet forgotten. Activities that he is now remembered. If he is in men's minds this morning it is because he wrote the libretto of an opera called *Clari* or *The Maid of Milan* which was produced, with music by Sir Henry Bishop, at Covent Garden on May 8, 1823, and in New York later the same year. Even so Payne and his opera might have faded into oblivion had not the hero of the opera, Clari, been played by Maria Tree who was a "complete white" morning dress of muslin, frilled and ruffled, and who sang "Home, Sweet Home". That ballad is not now sung so often as it was 60 years ago when Adelina Patti would never have allowed to omit it from any concert at which she sang; and as with every song at least half the credit must go to the composer, not the singer, it remains one of the most famous popular songs of the English-speaking lands, and even half a century later it is still sung to keep alive interest in Payne's life and work.

University news

Cambridge
ST JOHN'S COLLEGE: Fellowship election, Oct. 12. The election will be held on Oct. 12. The election will be held on Oct. 12. The election will be held on Oct. 12.

Leeds

Mr Horton Rogers, lecturer in law at Nottingham University, has been appointed professor of law from October 1.

OBITUARY

MR ABDULLA AL-HAJRI

North Yemen politician

Mr Abdullah al-Hajri, who was assassinated in London yesterday at the age of 65, was Prime Minister of the Yemen Arab Republic (North Yemen) from December 1972 to late autumn 1973. A hereditary Islamic judge (Qadi), and a royalist during the civil war of 1962-67, Mr al-Hajri was regarded in Yemen as a leading conservative and supporter of Saudi Arabian interests. He became prime minister as a result of a reaction among the more influential shakhhs in North Yemen against the Tricooli agreement of November 1972, under which North Yemen was to be united with the Marxist-ruled South Yemen in a single Yemen Republic.

Although on taking office he formally endorsed the unification policy, identified with the then President Qadi Abdur Rahman al-Yarhi, the agreement remained in practice a dead letter and the government's main objective was clearly to reassure Saudi Arabia. Mr al-Hajri paid an early visit to King Faisal, and agreed to waive North Yemen's claim to three Yemeni provinces which Saudi Arabia had annexed in 1933 and which, under the Treaty of Taif (1934), were due for return to Yemen in 1973.

Mr al-Hajri's period in office was marked by a revival of underground opposition from republicans hostile to the compromise with the royalists which had followed the civil war. On May 30, 1973, Shaikh Muhammad al-Hadi, who shared power with Mr al-Hajri and President al-Yarhi in the presidential council, was shot dead in an ambush in Taiz. Hiding that it regarded the South Yemen regime as responsible, the government reacted with a policy of repression.

Hundreds of its opponents were arrested and more than forty executed for "subversion". President al-Yarhi did not hide his lack of sympathy with these policies, and in the summer he went into a temporary exile in Syria. Helped by the Arab League, he returned to Yemen in October 1973, which produced a temporary softening of all inter-Arab disputes, he succeeded in obtaining the replacement of Mr al-Hajri by the former foreign minister, Mr Hassan Makki, who was less pro-Saudi and less outspokenly hostile to the Aden regime. But the regime remained paralysed by internal disagreements and central authority disintegrated until June 1974, when Colonel Ibrahim Muhammad al-Hadi, the present ruler, took over in a bloodless military coup.

MR J. WALLACE FRAME

Mr J. Wallace Frame, who devoted 58 years to the development of his travel company and of the travel trade in general, died on April 7 at the age of 77. He joined Frames Tours Ltd, his family business, straight from the Army in 1919, earning then £2 a week. It had only four branches; now it has over 50. He became a director of Frames and of Bonington Hotels Ltd in 1934, and chairman of both in 1947. He had conducted parties to the United States since before the war, but though much travelled he was essentially a Northampton man, often busy in his workshop with carpentry, and greatly interested in cricket and golf. His contribution to travel will be remembered.

Lady Bryan, wife of Sir Andrew Bryan, mining engineer and former member of the National Coal Board, died on April 9 in hospital at Edinburgh.

She was Henrietta Paterson Begg.

Women's charity appeals for help

A century and a quarter after a letter was published in *The Times* drawing attention to the existence of a little known charitable institution in the heart of Soho, London, another appeal for donations has been made by the House of St Barnabas. The organization in Greek Street provides accommodation, food, friendship and help for up to 40 distressed women.

Land workers' union in prices dilemma

Agriculture

Hugh Clayton

The growing division in Britain between the rural and the urban and suburban communities is reflected in the frequent coincidence of view between the two groups. Farmers and farmworkers all feel neglected and slighted by the overwhelming urban and suburban majority. They do not agree about everything; the reform of the tied cottage system, one of the great successes of the union's 70 years, was secured last year. The face of intense opposition from organized farmers and landowners.

The existence of the NUAAW is a tribute to its powers of organization, although it still has only a fraction of farmworkers in England and Wales on its books. The fragmentation of agricultural production into scattered units with comparatively few workers means that members of the union are often remote from union officials and close to employers and their managers. Conditions and wages on the land are well behind those in manufacturing industry. Some rural employers and employees still think and speak of their relationship as that of "master and man".

Science report

Botany: Albino plants as weed killers

Although at first sight albino plants seem to be of no use to anyone, an American scientist has suggested that it might be possible to exploit them as a subtle kind of weedkiller. Some apparently normal plants produce offspring (albino) that have no chlorophyll. These plants cannot photosynthesize, and can grow only for as long as the foodstore in the original seed will last. Such plants, inevitably, are doomed to die out. But Dr A. P. Smith, of Pennsylvania State University, has found evidence that they may offer some advantage to normal plants of their species. Dr Smith speculated that pro-

relationship as that of "master and man"

The difference between living in the country and the town is illustrated well by the first letter in the latest issue of *Land Worker*, the journal of the NUAAW. A survey of the union reports that a member who has been out of work for six months lives in a tied cottage with "the old bucket and pit rope of coal". As a result, the official writes, "his wife has to dig the pit to empty the toilet bucket for her family of three children". One characteristic of the price debate which has continued unabated in Britain throughout the 1970s has been that most people think only of how they are affected personally. If shoppers are told that they must pay more for sugar or tea, they seldom stop to wonder if the higher price might benefit the worker who cuts the cane or picks the leaf.

Moreover, since the countryside is somewhere they visit for a holiday, they tend to imagine that all who live in it enjoy a permanent holiday. The reality is that rural dwellers, isolated from the world, often have larger gardens than "executive" homes in commuter suburbs. Excerpts from a pamphlet written a year ago by someone who is not a farmer contain many statements which many farmers will sympathize with. "With the ever-increasing balance of payments difficulties and the steep rise in prices on the world markets the case for growing more food from our resources becomes more persuasive than ever", the pamphlet says.

The former role of progressive landowners establishing new techniques has now passed to the enterprising farmers supported by various advisory services and research establishments. Many of the small farmers have living standards similar to those of the urban workers. Indeed, when long hours, lack of leisure at weekends, lack of holidays and anxiety are taken into account, some are probably better off than most. The pamphlet was written by Mr Wilf Page, a Norfolk member of the executive committee of the NUAAW, who was on the executive committee of the Communist Party of Great Britain until 1973. The party published his pamphlet last year. It includes many suggestions that would be fiercely resisted by farmers, including widespread planning of output and a state takeover of land and its use. Mr Page was remarkably sympathetic to farmers, who include some of the most vocal and unshamed capitalists in the country. It is hard to imagine the writer of a Communist Party pamphlet being so kind to companies which give to the food produced by farmers or the inputs bought by them. Mr Page writes: "Agriculture is an industry exploited by big business. For while the industry is large the units are small." Many farmers will agree with that statement and disagreeing strongly with the philosophy of its author.

By Nature-Times News Service.

Source: *Nature*, vol 266, 527, Apr. 7, 1977.

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SPORT

Racing

Hide and Easterby to strike again

By Michael Seely
The result of the XYZ Handicap at Newcastle on Saturday gave yet another indication that the Minstrel is a worthy favourite for the 2,000 Guineas. In a desperate last furlong duel, Rosicars, ridden by the diminutive West Indian sportsman, Compton Rodrigues, forced his head back in front in the final stride to beat Black Minstrel, the mount of Des Cullen by a head. Rosicars was five lengths away third. Over eight lengths ahead in sixth place came the 4-6 favourite Sir Ronan, who was seven lengths ahead of Sultan's Ruby.

It is easy to make too much of this. The going was very heavy and the dice were loaded against highly weighted horses. First time out, the Minstrel was clearly improved since his first run of the season. But the fact remains that Sir Ronan had beaten Sporting Vase and the market last October, and Sultan's Ruby chased home the same horse

in the William Bill Futurity at Doncaster. Repetition on the other hand, had been beaten 20 lengths by Crown Bowler at Doncaster and Crown Bowler in his turn had gone on to finish nearly 12 lengths behind the Minstrel at Ascot. It is dangerous to be dogmatic about horses having their first outings in these conditions, but the Minstrel's chance at Newcastle cannot be said to have been lessened by the happenings at Goodwood Park on Saturday.

At Newcastle today that formidable combination of Michael Easterby and Edward Hyde can lead the Northern Free Handicap with Tudor Jig, who has been penalized 6lb for his success in the Tote Spring Handicap at Doncaster. Tudor Jig is the oldest of Sir Elton's talented three-year-olds, Don, who, looking in a year of the race gave La Ville de Rive the best of his career. Tudor Jig, who was in a conditions race the same afternoon. Judged on that

appearance at Warwick should show the benefit of that run in the Killowen Maiden Stakes. Moombs's trainer Gavin Pritchard-Gordon could also saddle the winner of the Maiden Stakes with Moombs's Star, who has Edward Hyde's mount, Royal Legend, to beat.

At Nottingham the best bet may be Mrs James De Rodach's Elusive, who gave Bruce Hobbs his first success of the current season when scoring easily at Warwick. The feature race, the Ladbroke Victoria Centre Stakes, may fall to a northern raider, Kialora, who after winning three races last season encountered trouble in running behind Sporty at Ayr in September. Hobbs can make his second winner of the afternoon with quality in a tricky looking County Handicap. At Warwick I am taking Martin Taylor's 4-6 favourite Water Colour to capture the Easter Monday Handicap.

From Desmond Stoneham
French Racing Correspondent
Paris, April 10.
Only three of the 10 runners in the Prix d'Harcourt at Longchamp tomorrow—Cheraw, Full of Hope and Kasteel—had a previous race this season. The going last Sunday was about the worst recorded in many years, but a generally fine and windy week will have wrought some improvement. However, it will be soft, at best, and race fitness will be most important.

Cheraw, best Kasteel by three-quarters of a length and two in the Prix Exbury at St-Cloud last month. However, Kasteel, who is now 2lb better off, seems to keep his best performances for Longchamp and may reverse the places with his wife last year were achieved on this track and he was also beaten a short head by Extra Green in the Prix Ganay. The latter race, which takes place on May 1 this year, is clearly the objective of most of tomorrow's runners, including Extra Green himself. Trepas, who was originally intended to reappear at St-Cloud nine days ago, may be the fittest of those who have not raced this year and could chase home Kasteel and Cheraw. He will be ridden by Freddie Head as Philippe Paquet is serving a four-day suspension.

National Hunt programmes

Plumpton

2.15 EASTER HURDLE (E362: 2m)
000 Banaventa, 7-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
001 Jack Abbot, 5-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
002 Coffee, 5-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
003 Four Four, 5-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
004 Francis, 7-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
005 Sir Ronan, 7-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
006 Sir Ronan, 7-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
007 Sir Ronan, 7-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
008 Sir Ronan, 7-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
009 Sir Ronan, 7-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
010 Sir Ronan, 7-11-11 Mr Kelly 7

2.50 LINDFIELD STEEPLE-CHASE (Handicap: E360: 2m 750yd)
000 Owswood, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
001 Owswood, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
002 Owswood, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
003 Owswood, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
004 Owswood, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
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008 Owswood, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
009 Owswood, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
010 Owswood, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7

3.20 HASTINGS HURDLE (Handicap: E1,056: 21m)
000 Hastings, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
001 Hastings, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
002 Hastings, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
003 Hastings, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
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008 Hastings, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
009 Hastings, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
010 Hastings, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7

3.50 HAILSHAM HURDLE (Novices: E554: 21m)
000 Hailsham, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
001 Hailsham, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
002 Hailsham, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
003 Hailsham, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
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010 Hailsham, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7

4.20 HOLIDAY HURDLE (4-y-o novices: E552: 2m)
000 Holiday, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
001 Holiday, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
002 Holiday, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
003 Holiday, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
004 Holiday, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
005 Holiday, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
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008 Holiday, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
009 Holiday, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
010 Holiday, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7

4.50 ALFISTON STEEPLE-CHASE (Novices: E517: 2m)
000 Alfiston, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
001 Alfiston, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
002 Alfiston, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
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010 Alfiston, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7

5.10 WETHERBY STEEPLE-CHASE (Handicap: E459: 2m)
000 Wetherby, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
001 Wetherby, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
002 Wetherby, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
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010 Wetherby, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7

5.40 WILSTROP HURDLE (Amateur Riders: E521: 3m)
000 Wilstrop, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
001 Wilstrop, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
002 Wilstrop, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
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6.10 WETHERBY STEEPLE-CHASE (Handicap: E459: 2m)
000 Wetherby, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
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6.40 WILSTROP HURDLE (Amateur Riders: E521: 3m)
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7.10 WETHERBY STEEPLE-CHASE (Handicap: E459: 2m)
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7.40 WILSTROP HURDLE (Amateur Riders: E521: 3m)
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8.10 WETHERBY STEEPLE-CHASE (Handicap: E459: 2m)
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8.40 WILSTROP HURDLE (Amateur Riders: E521: 3m)
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9.10 WETHERBY STEEPLE-CHASE (Handicap: E459: 2m)
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009 Wetherby, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
010 Wetherby, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7

Fakenham

2.15 RAYHAM HURDLE (E306: 2m 120yd)
000 Rayham, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
001 Rayham, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
002 Rayham, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
003 Rayham, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
004 Rayham, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
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009 Rayham, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
010 Rayham, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7

2.50 NORWICH STEEPLE-CHASE (Handicap: E558: 3m)
000 Norwich, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
001 Norwich, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
002 Norwich, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
003 Norwich, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
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008 Norwich, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
009 Norwich, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
010 Norwich, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7

3.25 QUEEN'S CUP STEEPLE-CHASE (Hunters: E340: 3m)
000 Queen's Cup, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
001 Queen's Cup, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
002 Queen's Cup, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
003 Queen's Cup, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
004 Queen's Cup, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
005 Queen's Cup, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
006 Queen's Cup, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
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009 Queen's Cup, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
010 Queen's Cup, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7

4.0 FRANCIS WAIN HURDLE (Handicap: E454: 2m 120yd)
000 Francis Wain, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
001 Francis Wain, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
002 Francis Wain, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
003 Francis Wain, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
004 Francis Wain, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
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009 Francis Wain, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
010 Francis Wain, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7

4.35 FAKENHAM HURDLE (Handicap: novices: E306: 2m 120yd)
000 Fakenham, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
001 Fakenham, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
002 Fakenham, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
003 Fakenham, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
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010 Fakenham, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7

5.10 SILVER JUBILEE STEEPLE-CHASE (Hunters: E340: 2m 5f 180yd)
000 Silver Jubilee, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
001 Silver Jubilee, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
002 Silver Jubilee, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
003 Silver Jubilee, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
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010 Silver Jubilee, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7

5.40 ALFISTON STEEPLE-CHASE (Novices: E517: 2m)
000 Alfiston, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
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6.10 WETHERBY STEEPLE-CHASE (Handicap: E459: 2m)
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6.40 WILSTROP HURDLE (Amateur Riders: E521: 3m)
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7.10 WETHERBY STEEPLE-CHASE (Handicap: E459: 2m)
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7.40 WILSTROP HURDLE (Amateur Riders: E521: 3m)
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8.10 WETHERBY STEEPLE-CHASE (Handicap: E459: 2m)
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8.40 WILSTROP HURDLE (Amateur Riders: E521: 3m)
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9.10 WETHERBY STEEPLE-CHASE (Handicap: E459: 2m)
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9.40 WILSTROP HURDLE (Amateur Riders: E521: 3m)
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006 Wilstrop, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
007 Wilstrop, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
008 Wilstrop, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
009 Wilstrop, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
010 Wilstrop, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7

Huntingdon

2.0 STUKES HURDLE (Handicap: E376: 2m 200yd)
000 Stukes, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
001 Stukes, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
002 Stukes, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
003 Stukes, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
004 Stukes, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
005 Stukes, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
006 Stukes, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
007 Stukes, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
008 Stukes, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
009 Stukes, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
010 Stukes, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7

2.30 STILTON STEEPLE-CHASE (Novices: E564: 21m)
000 Stilton, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
001 Stilton, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
002 Stilton, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
003 Stilton, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
004 Stilton, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
005 Stilton, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
006 Stilton, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
007 Stilton, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
008 Stilton, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
009 Stilton, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
010 Stilton, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7

3.0 HUNTINGDON HURDLE (Handicap: E739: 2m 200yd)
000 Huntingdon, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
001 Huntingdon, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
002 Huntingdon, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
003 Huntingdon, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
004 Huntingdon, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
005 Huntingdon, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
006 Huntingdon, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
007 Huntingdon, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
008 Huntingdon, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
009 Huntingdon, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
010 Huntingdon, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7

3.30 FITZWILLIAM STEEPLE-CHASE (Handicap: E711: 3m 100yd)
000 Fitzwilliam, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
001 Fitzwilliam, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
002 Fitzwilliam, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
003 Fitzwilliam, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
004 Fitzwilliam, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
005 Fitzwilliam, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
006 Fitzwilliam, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
007 Fitzwilliam, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
008 Fitzwilliam, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
009 Fitzwilliam, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
010 Fitzwilliam, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7

4.0 HUNTINGDON HURDLE (Handicap: E739: 2m 200yd)
000 Huntingdon, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
001 Huntingdon, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
002 Huntingdon, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
003 Huntingdon, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
004 Huntingdon, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
005 Huntingdon, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
006 Huntingdon, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
007 Huntingdon, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
008 Huntingdon, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
009 Huntingdon, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
010 Huntingdon, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7

4.30 HUNTINGDON HURDLE (Handicap: E739: 2m 200yd)
000 Huntingdon, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
001 Huntingdon, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
002 Huntingdon, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
003 Huntingdon, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
004 Huntingdon, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
005 Huntingdon, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
006 Huntingdon, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
007 Huntingdon, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
008 Huntingdon, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
009 Huntingdon, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7
010 Huntingdon, 11-11-11 Mr Kelly 7

4.60 HUN

